



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Livin' on the Edge (of the Neighborhood)

There's a New Buzz at Guerrero and 22nd Streets

By Lorraine Sanders

Chances are, the last time you heard neighbors buzzing about happenings down at 22nd and Guerrero streets, the ruminations had something to do with pot. From the time the Green Cross set up shop on Noe Valley's easternmost edge in July 2004, until it closed its doors earlier this year, the medical marijuana dispensary sparked more than its fair share of neighborhood chatter—and controversy.

Stroll down to that same intersection these days and you'll catch an altogether different sort of buzz. New businesses are sprouting up, and some old favorites are finding new ways to please their faithful patrons.

Newcomers Josephine & DeBudda, an eclectic boutique featuring vintage and vintage-inspired jewelry, accessories, and finds for the home, and Little Tree Gallery, a pint-sized art space dedicated to showing work from emerging local artists, have moved into the Green Cross' former digs.

Josephine & DeBudda owner Jessica Goldberg grew up in San Francisco but recently moved back to the West Coast from Brooklyn. She was happy to find the space on 22nd Street, where browsers are greeted by the store's canine mascot, Josephine.

"It's very intimate. Everybody kind of looks out for each other and supports all the businesses," she says of the neighborhood atmosphere.

A few storefronts down from Goldberg's shop, the Little Tree Gallery greets passersby with crisp white walls and open doors—quite a departure from the previous tenant's blacked-out windows and

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Jessica Goldberg has opened a vintage boutique in one of the spots vacated by the Green Cross on 22nd near Guerrero. The shop is named after her French bulldog Josephine.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



Ron Peetz and Tuggey's owner Denny Giovannoli (right) like working on 24th Street, especially when they can take a break with their pals Elmira and Elmer. Photo by Pamela Gerard

## LOCAL GEMS

### Tuggey's Hardware—A Well-Loved Noe Valley Fixture

By Kate Volkman

A customer walks into Tuggey's with a fluorescent light bulb in his hand one Thursday morning. Before he even opens his mouth, store employee Ron Peetz leads him to the appropriate aisle for a replacement.

This is standard practice at the venerable hardware store at 3885 24th Street. Tuggey's is renowned for its helpful service and expert staff, who greet you at the door and rush to find the right extension

cord, picture hanger, or tub stopper.

According to Denny Giovannoli, whose family has owned and operated the store for nearly 50 years, people-pleasing is what Tuggey's is all about. That friendly attitude, combined with a full stock of fix-it supplies, has created a business with perhaps the longest run of any shop on 24th Street.

Tuggey's has been a Noe Valley institution for over a century. It opened as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

## Merchants on Church St. Launch A New Group

Stores and Café Owners Get Together for Fun and Profit

By Corrie M. Anders

Nearly 90 businesses fill the storefronts along Noe Valley's Church Street—everything from coffee shops and sushi restaurants to antique stores and skin-care spas.

But it's a shopping street without a clear identity, especially when compared with 24th Street, known affectionately as "Downtown Noe Valley."

That may soon change. A group of merchants has formed a loose-knit association called Church Street Business. CSB hopes to eventually transform the 12 blocks of Church Street between 24th and 30th into a vibrant shopping district.

On the group's wish list are sidewalk sales and an evening stroll event that would bring new shoppers to stores and cafes along the strip. Church Street itself would be spiffed up with better overhead lighting, colorful banners, newly-planted trees, Halloween activities for kids, and festive lighting or decorations during the December holidays.

"We sort of live in the shadow of 24th Street," says Lynn Ingham, an antique store owner who with art teacher Paula Benton got the ball rolling in July. A principal goal of the group, says Ingham, is to show residents that "you don't have to leave the neighborhood to have a great shopping experience."

Or a food experience, for that matter.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Mary's Defender: Janis Cooke Newman

Voice Columnist Channels Spirit of Mary Todd Lincoln

By Olivia Boler

After much anticipation, Janis Cooke Newman's second book arrives in bookstores on Sept. 8. It's called *Mary: A Novel*, and the 706-page work of historical fiction explores the life of Mary Todd Lincoln, President Abraham Lincoln's remarkable wife.

Newman, 51, became intrigued by Mrs. Lincoln during a tour of Ford's Theater, where John Wilkes Booth assassinated the president. Newman learned that the president's widow had become extremely depressed after her husband's death, and that her son Robert Lincoln had put her in an insane asylum in 1875.

Newman, who lives in Glen Park ("I like to think of it as Noe Valley South"), is the author of a memoir, *The Russian Word for Snow*, about the adoption of her son, Alex. A journalist as well, she also wrote a regular column for the *Noe Valley Voice*, from 1999 to 2003. Recently, the *Voice* sat down with Newman to chat about *Mary*, madness in the Victorian era, and the debatable sexiness of a five-dollar bill.

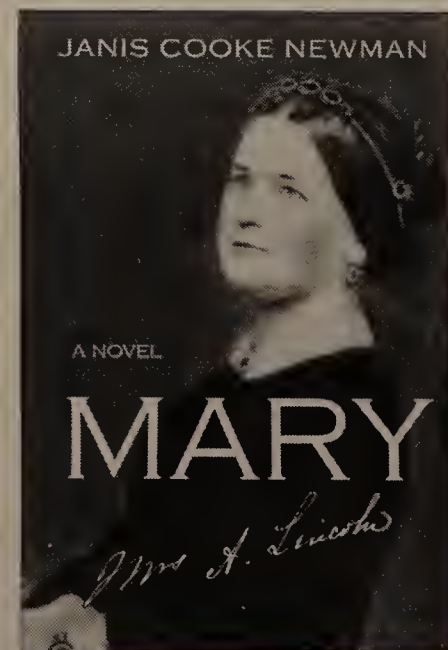
Noe Valley Voice: What is *Mary* about?

Janis Cooke Newman: It's about different things on different levels. [Former *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist] Adair Lara said to me, "You're rescuing Mary Todd Lincoln from the slag heap of history." From a historical point of view, I feel I have become Mary's defender.

As a novel, it's about a woman searching for love after her mother dies—first from a husband who has difficulty with affection and passion, and then from a son from whom she tries to get affection and love.

NVV: Why did you decide to write this book?

JCN: I feel the story really found me. That day at the boarding house where Lincoln died and the tour guide described her grief, I really felt like her spirit was there. And all the descriptions I heard of her were always derogatory. At the time, she was the most hated woman in America aside from this abortionist in New York. After Lincoln died, she had terrible debts, and it took years for his estate to be settled. She



Janis Cooke Newman's novel on the last years of Mary Todd Lincoln is published by MacAdam/Cage.

kept petitioning Congress for some sort of pension. And then she tried to sell her clothes, which was hugely scandalous. She didn't act the way the public expects a president's widow to act, in the way the public still expects. Like

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13





**Summer Bounty.** A pleasurable part of living in Noe Valley can be the tomatoes you grow yourself. And there's plenty of produce still to come for many backyard and planter box farmers.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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<http://www.nvharvestfestival.com>

## Presented by:

Friends of Noe Valley  
The Noe Valley Merchants & Professional Association  
Noe Valley Association —  
A Community Benefits District (CBD)

Design: Mary Teahan-Duffy, *Glencar Graphics*



## Congratulations!

Logo Winner: Kenzie Maloney, Age 10

A sincere thank you to all the up and coming Noe Valley young artists who entered our contest. It was an extremely tough decision to choose the winning drawing. All the drawings were fantastic!

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## Re-Elect Supervisor Bevan Dufty

### Improving Noe Valley Block by Block

#### Keeping the Noe Library Renovation on Track

Noe Valley's Sally Brunn Branch Library, a historic Andrew Carnegie building, requires seismic and access renovation. I have worked closely with Noe Valley community leaders to keep this project on track and fully funded. Cost increases twice threatened to stall the project or curtail its scope.

Both times I secured needed funding from the Library Commission; work on this two-year \$5.7 million construction project began in March 2006.



*"Bevan has been our Guardian Angel for the Noe Valley Library."*

*-Kim Drew\**  
Co-Chair,  
Noe Valley Library  
Campaign

As with all branch library renovations, neighborhood fundraising campaigns are needed to purchase furnishings and fixtures. Now is the perfect time to make your pledge. E-mail [noevalleylibrarycampaign@yahoo.com](mailto:noevalleylibrarycampaign@yahoo.com)



*"I had some doubts about Bevan at first, but he has turned out to be a true advocate for our neighborhood."*

*-Vicki Rosen\**  
President of Upper Noe Neighbors



*"Bevan has shown tremendous dedication to the needs of the Noe Valley community. Bevan listens and he gets things done."*

*-Debra Niemann\**  
Former President,  
Friends of Noe Valley

#### Creating the Noe Valley Community Benefits District

I established the Noe Valley Community Benefits District (CBD) in July 2005 in a team effort with Carol Yenne of 24th Street Merchants and Debra Niemann, then President of Friends of Noe Valley.

Noe Valley's commercial property owners voted to assess themselves for additional cleaning, greening and policing patrols.

Since January 2006, regular crews staffed by MJM Management pick up litter, remove graffiti, steam clean sidewalks and maintain trees. 24th Street has never looked better.

#### Allowing New Restaurants on 24th Street

Over 15 years ago a zoning restriction was enacted prohibiting new restaurants on 24th Street.

Working with Friends of Noe Valley, we conducted community meetings and surveys and determined that neighbors wanted to modify the restriction. I authored a zoning amendment that allows up to 3 new restaurants on 24th street over the next 5 years.

#### At Last: Renovating Upper Noe Recreation Center

Upper Noe Valley Rec Center is slated for a much needed \$6.6 million face lift starting this Fall.

It is scheduled to take 16 months. I am establishing a neighborhood committee that will work with me to monitor all phases of this project to keep it on track.

#### Designing a New Children's Play Area for Noe Courts

In Winter 2005, Laura Norman, Ilene Osherow, and Eden Halbert, all parents of small children, invited me to see the poor conditions at the Noe Courts Children's/Tots Play area. The area is both unsafe and unexciting in terms of the play equipment.

Initially the prospects for re-doing the area were limited since Noe Courts was not part of Recreation and Park's 10-year capital program. However, the outpouring of neighbor interest helped me persuade Mayor Gavin Newsom to include \$175,000 in capital funds to jump-start design of a new children's play area. I secured the additional \$225,000 funds are needed so we can begin construction in early 2007 for completion next summer.

#### 23rd and Castro

Despite repeated requests, DPT had rejected making this intersection a 4-way stop. I sponsored the resolution and it was installed last year. Perhaps no stop sign in District 8 has elicited the acclaim I've heard for the 4-way stop sign at 23rd and Castro.



#### J-Church Screeching Tracks

Working with Vicki Rosen, President of Upper Noe Neighbors, we fixed track maintenance problems with MUNI. When the tracks are not frequently washed and lubricated, they screech. We had several field trips with MUNI managers and this helped to keep the problem under control.

#### Creating More Parking Spaces!

To offer some parking relief, I worked to establish diagonal parking on Castro between 25th and Jersey. This netted 8 new parking spaces in a bustling area of shops and restaurants. Carol Yenne was the "General" that marshaled needed support.

#### Please visit [bevanduffy.com](http://bevanduffy.com) and sign-up to:

Put up a house sign (Bevan does not post signs on street poles) • Make a contribution (Bevan has a voluntary limit of \$100) • Host a house party (we will help you invite friends and neighbors and there is no requirement for fundraising, just meeting District 8 voters) • Volunteer in our HQ. We are returning to our storefront at 2344 Market Street between Castro and Noe. (We especially need help with database and computer work) • Work a Saturday or Sunday at one of our Voter Registration/Re-Elect Bevan tables • Provide a donation or loan of office equipment, computers, etc.

**To volunteer, contact Alex Randolph at 415.621.VOTE or  
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\* Organizational affiliations for identification purposes only.



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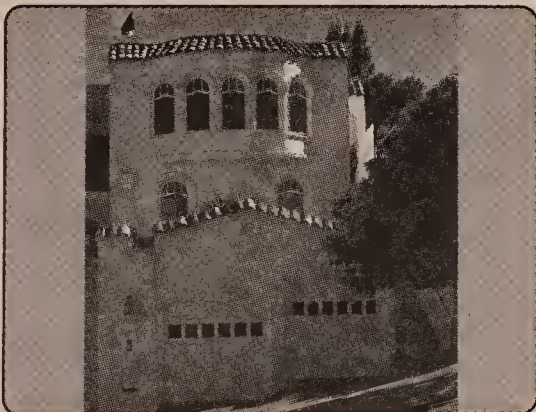
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# LETTERS 39¢

## Drivers, Please 'Do Not Pass'

Editor:

I really appreciate reading the *Voice* month after month, but I do have a complaint that concerns Noe Valley.

As you know, Noe Valleyans are great people...and they are doing their best to be good citizens, including taking Muni to work or on other outings.

Unfortunately, every week I see more and more idiots who sneak, cheat, and put people in danger. I'm referring to the drivers who knowingly and aggressively pass the J-Church streetcar while it is stopped at a bus stop. Drivers assume nobody will leave the streetcar or step out into the crosswalk, and they pass without a second thought. I've noticed this at both the Clipper Street and 27th Street stops.

There are "Do Not Pass" signs, but nobody enforces them.

The Muni, the police, and DPT should do something soon—before we read a horror story in the *Voice*, and before my own kids refuse to take Muni out of fear.

Here are my suggestions:

- Put the "Do Not Pass" signs mid-block—about where the end of a streetcar is while it's stopped at a bus stop—so when a car is right behind the streetcar, the sign is *right* there.
- Paint "Do Not Pass" or some other sign on the pavement, the same way a painted "STOP" and a white line remind us of a stop sign.
- Freshen up the yellow Muni stop signs on the posts, poles, and curbs.
- And if it's not too much to ask, let us have some on-off enforcement of the law.

Thanks for reading me.

S.S.  
Clipper Street



**There's No Way Around It:** It's illegal to pass the J-Church streetcar. Letter-writer S.S. reminds us that drivers are in flagrant violation of this law. Photo by Jack Tipple

## Noe Valley—Exclusive Playground of the Wealthy?

Editor:

I'm writing concerning an article on recent rents and homes sales in Noe Valley in the July-August 2006 issue. The article seems to have been written in such a manner as to almost be proud of the fact that in May 2006, of 13 homes sold, all but one sold for \$1 million plus!

Meanwhile, the Noe Valley Rents chart showed that rental rates for a one-bedroom apartment ranged as high as \$3,000 a month (\$36,000 a year!), and the average was over \$1,800 a month. A lot of folks don't even earn \$1,800 a month, much less \$3,000. And rents are increasing year to year.

It seems to me Noe Valley and this city of ours has some soul-searching and reflecting to do on what kind of place we want this to be, an exclusive playground of the wealthy or a place where low-income service workers, public school teachers, janitors, taxi cab drivers, and a whole host of other workers—and senior citizens and disabled folks on fixed incomes—can also afford to live. So many lower-income individuals and families are forced to move out of San Francisco because they are increasingly being priced out of house and home here.

Coming from the Midwest, I think such housing prices are outrageous and irrational, not to mention exclusive and inhospitable to so many who cannot afford them. We can, and have, forced our less fortunate citizens, including our seniors and service veterans, to live either in wretched single-room-occupancy hotels or on the streets, but I thought our town was so progressive and enlightened!

Does Noe Valley intend to serve only the upper-middle and upper classes? Let us think about all of this and look honestly at ourselves in the mirror and get serious about who we are, what we are becoming, and who we want to be as a neighborhood and community. Who are we excluding and why? Shall we be exclusive, or inclusive of a wide range of vibrant diversity? If the former, we're doing a great job of it through housing pricing. If the latter, we need to provide housing at considerably below \$1 million plus!

Rebecca Freund  
Arlington Street

## A Well-Read Place: West Portal Books

Editor:

In the Rumors Behind the News section of the July-August 2006 *Noe Valley Voice*, a statement made by Noe Valley resident Neal Sofman—the former owner of A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books—caught my eye. In explaining why he and his wife Anna Bullard recently opened a bookstore in West Portal, Sofman stated, "One of the mothers in our child's preschool told me there was no bookstore in the West Portal shopping district and that the neighborhood really needed one...."

Having owned and operated, in partnership with my wife Diane, West Portal Books (a used bookstore, yes, but a bookstore nevertheless) for almost 15 years, I can't help but wonder about the veracity of Sofman's story. Also, West Portal has a Waldenbooks, which has been there longer than we have.

I write this because Sofman claims that he closed ACWLPB and opened his Bookshop West Portal for "reasons [that] are many and complex, [but] the simple answer is that the book-buying market has moved on, either geographically or culturally," yet local independent chain Books Inc. has been quick to take over the spot ACWLPB vacated and will have a similar store to Sofman's, in the same location, before the end of the year.

A "rumor behind the news" that we've heard at our place is that Sofman simply may have gotten tired of ACWLPB's declining sales, parking woes, and the financial burden of paying a living wage and benefits for 30 employees.

Does it sound like I have sour grapes? You would too if someone started a new local newspaper called the *Voice Noe Valley* and you had to field calls from everyone from bill collectors to potential customers because your competition used an almost identical name.

Be sure to let your readers know that when visiting the West Portal shopping district, either by car or the 48 bus, we offer a fine selection of secondhand recycled books at popular prices! Thanks for the opportunity to clarify the situation.

Jeffrey A. Goodman, co-owner  
West Portal Books  
111 West Portal Avenue  
www.westportalbooks.com  
www.bookshoponwestportal.com

## Library Campaign Correction

Editor:

Thank you very much for the story you ran in the July/August issue about the Noe Valley–Sally Brunn Library Campaign. It is remarkable how much interest in the campaign that story generated—I've been getting numerous e-mails from neighborhood residents interested in buying a brick, making a donation, or volunteering their time to the effort.

There is one point that I want to correct, however. Our booth is at the Farmers' Market on only the FIRST Saturday of each month—not every Saturday.

Thanks again for publicizing the campaign.

Kim Drew  
Chair, Noe Valley Library Campaign  
kkdrew@yahoo.com

## Time to Ban Heavy Trucks on Jersey Street

Dear Residents of Noe Valley:

Is anyone else tired of the endless stream of delivery trucks and Google shuttles bustling down our residential streets? In Noe Valley, Jersey Street is just one of the residential streets that is jammed with large delivery trucks and commuter vans causing noise violations and unsafe conditions. I recently witnessed a gas trolley full of noisy tourists traveling down Jersey Street after 9 p.m. Enough is enough.

It is time for us to say no to delivery trucks and 18-wheelers; we do not have to endure this noise pollution.

The San Francisco Traffic Code (Article 3, Section 28.1) states that vehicles exceeding a maximum gross weight of three tons may be prohibited from coming down certain residential streets.

Many streets in our area, such as Chataooga Street and Fair Oaks Street, are already on the prohibited list. So the question is, what needs to be done to add Jersey Street (and *your* residential street) to the list of prohibited roads?

After much research, voicemails, e-mails, and dead-ends, I am still looking for a clear way to take action. If you have some insight on this matter, please contact [quietstreets@gmail.com](mailto:quietstreets@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, if you too are sick of wearing earplugs at night and support this cause, please e-mail, write, or fax the Department of Parking and Traffic. E-mail [DPT.Website@sfgov.org](mailto:DPT.Website@sfgov.org); phone Bryant Woo, 415-701-4569, or Kathleen Swindler, 415-701-4580; or write or fax:

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Jersey Street



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## THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

1021 Sanchez Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
[www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com)

The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity, on or before the first Friday of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$30 per year (\$20 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned manuscripts will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The *Noe Valley Voice* is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

Editorial Office: 415-821-3324

E-mail: [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com)

Web Site: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com)

Distribution: Call Misha at 415-752-1726

Display Advertising:

Call Steve at 415-239-1114

Class Ads: See Page 53

Display Advertising Deadline for the  
October 2006 Issue: Sept. 15, 2006  
Editorial/Class Ad Deadline: Sept. 15, 2006

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER  
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## 22nd & Guerrero Has a New Vibe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

security cameras.

Owners Forest Swartout and Brent Large opened the gallery in July. They hope to make reasonably-priced contemporary art more accessible to city residents while giving local artists an appealing venue for showing their work. "You don't need to whisper in here," says Large, noting that the gallery's aim is to avoid the stuffy attitude often associated with major art galleries.

Swartout and Large also want to encourage emerging artists to stick around the area and remain part of the arts scene.

"The Bay Area has a lot of great artists, but they like to leave all the time," laments Large.

This month, the gallery features work by Haden Nicholl. A new solo exhibition appears each month.

While new businesses have been tak-

ing root, veterans like the Tao Café have been expanding their offerings. After operating her Vietnamese restaurant at the corner of 22nd and Guerrero alone for several years, owner Thuy Nguyen has brought on new partner Trang Luu.

The new arrangement has made a world of difference for Nguyen, a busy mother of two who spent four years juggling family life with the demands of running a restaurant and serving as its head chef.

"It's like I had a small blanket put over my head and it exposed my toes. Now this blanket is bigger," Nguyen says.

Now that she has help in the kitchen, Nguyen can actually stay home and watch a movie with her kids one night a week.

For Tao Café patrons, the partnership means new dishes such as Luu's savory garlic noodles. Diners will also notice an announcement about cooking classes at the top of Tao's menu. Nguyen, who owned a restaurant in Paris before coming to the United States six years ago, will teach you anything from cooking basics to weekly menu preparation, plus the



Brent Large (left) and Forrest Swartout opened their Little Tree Gallery at 3412 22nd Street in July. The space is flooded with light to best showcase local artists' work. "We also want everyone to feel comfortable checking out the artwork," Swartout says. Photo by Pamela Gerord

how-to's of choosing the right cuts of meat at the butcher shop and making healthy desserts for kids.

Across the street on the other side of Guerrero, Moroccan restaurant Zagora, which opened last December, has new management at the helm. Next door, Kiji Sushi Bar & Cuisine, which opened last October, continues to draw diners with its classic rolls, fusion entrees, and selection of over 30 sake varieties. Blush Nail Spa, which also opened late last year, has carved out a niche in the area by offering reasonably priced manicures, pedicures, and waxing with add-on options like those found at posh downtown spas, including lavender foot soaks, mango-scented lotion, and sea mud masks for legs and feet.

Not every business at 22nd and Guerrero is new. You can still enjoy a pint at the Liberties pub, which now sports a Tots on Tuesdays children's menu. You also can sip martinis at the Lone Palm, surf the web on your laptop while downing strong java at the Que Tal coffeehouse, keep your mop in shape at Shear Delight or Victor's Hair Salon, and, last but not least, view what is purported to be the world's largest rubberband ball at Pride Superette, the convenience store on the corner.

To be sure, you'll find many things at this bustling little commercial enclave on

Noe Valley's outskirts. But compared to the always-packed Valencia corridor nearby or the heavily trafficked 24th Street, the intersection of 22nd and Guerrero is decidedly mellow.

La Provence, which opened in June 2005, is one of the not-so-new newcomers to this little strip of Guerrero. Owner Lionel LaFite, who likens the neighborhood to "a little village," enjoys the quiet easygoing pace that surrounds his restaurant at 1001 Guerrero Street. The Greenbrae resident has noticed a marked difference in the area since the Green Cross shut down.

"That was attracting a lot of so-so people," LaFite says. "Now it's back to the people who live here, a nice San Francisco neighborhood where you expect to raise a family."

But that doesn't mean LaFite shuns visitors who come from the surrounding hills to dine on his French Provençal cuisine. Arrive by cab, and he'll reimburse the fare in restaurant credit.

"Just don't come from Pacifica," he laughs.



A Moroccan, French, and sushi restaurant now populate Noe's eastern enclave at 22nd and Guerrero streets. They join the Liberties Irish pub and Café Que Tal. Photo by Pamela Gerord

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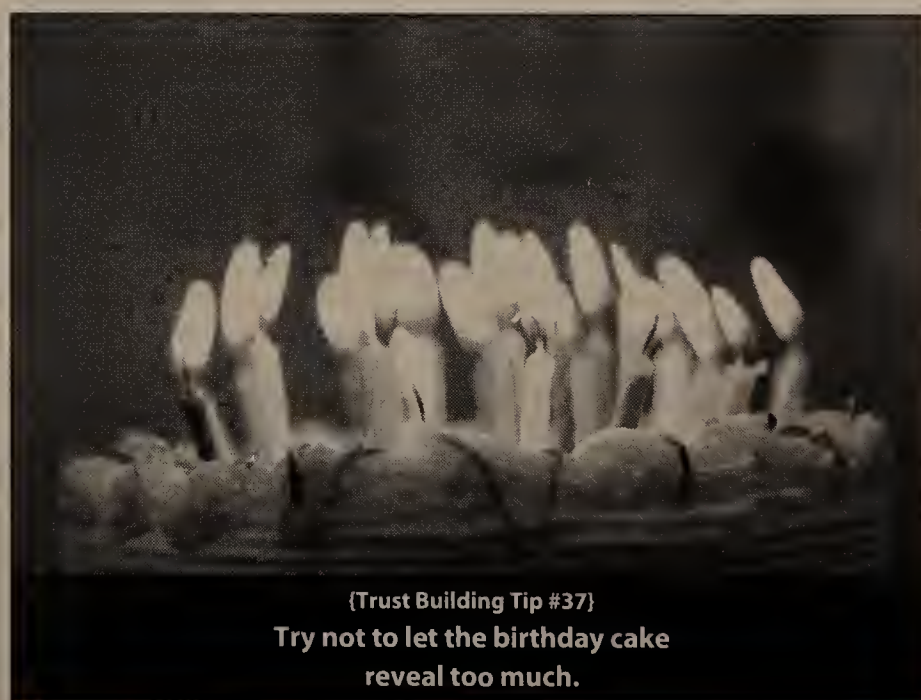
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MAY, 2006

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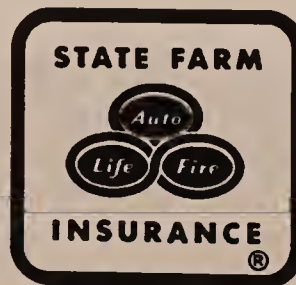
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## Church Street Business Gets Rolling

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Two new restaurants have recently opened on outer Church: La Ciccia, which offers Sardinian fare, and Bistro 1689, serving California-French cuisine (see Store Trek, page 27). Joey & Eddie's Seafood and a diner called Toast are set to open soon. The new cafes will join nearly a dozen eateries sprinkled along the Church Street corridor.

Ingham says another reason the two shopkeepers decided to get organized was to meet their peers.

"I didn't know a lot of my business neighbors, and I wanted to," says Ingham, who opened her shop, Lynn Antiques and Beautiful Things, on Church near 27th Street, a little more than a year ago. "I was dealing with a lot of issues, street cleaning and lighting, and I figured others were as well."

She and Benton, who founded Artery studio at Church and 25th in 2004, decided the best way to test the waters was to hold a meet-and-greet cocktail party at the popular Incanto restaurant, a few blocks down the street. They hand-delivered printed invitations to 86 businesses on Church Street, and also invited members of the residents group Upper Noe Neighbors. Approximately 50 people attended the event, held on July 17.

"We were met with a lot of enthusiasm," says Ingham.

Benton agrees the turnout was impressive. "There were people there who are

just now putting the finishing touches on new stores, and people who have run businesses on Church for [decades]," she says. "We asked people if they had the desire to meet on a regular basis to work on some common goals and community good deeds. Overwhelmingly, the answer was yes!"

Benton says the group is still defining

its mission, but members have already volunteered to start work on some fall festivities and to develop an emergency phone tree, an area map and directory, and perhaps even new-neighbor welcome baskets. They also have made contact with the leaders of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, their counterparts on 24th Street.

To keep the energy flowing, they plan to meet every two months, on the third Monday. The next gathering is Monday, Sept. 18, 6:30 p.m., in the outdoor patio at Fattoush Restaurant, 1361 Church Street.

For the inside business on Church Street Business, e-mail Paula Benton at [bentonp@sprynet.com](mailto:bentonp@sprynet.com). ■



Paula Benton (left to right), Lynn Ingham, and Mark Pastore toasted the formation of a new group, Church Street Business, at a July cocktail party at Incanto Restaurant attended by close to 50 other merchants.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

## A Pair of Leaders for 24th Street Merchants

By Corrie M. Anders

The new group Church Street Business (see story, page 1) is getting started at the same time that the long-established Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association is changing its leadership.

On Sept. 1, Carol Yenne, owner of Small Frys clothing store, will hand over the reins of the association to two Noe Valley business owners: Diane Barrett and Teresa Gay.

Barrett owns Indigo V, a gift and florist shop that has been in the neighborhood since 1990—first on Castro Street and now on 24th Street. Gay is the proprietor of Wardrobe 911 (formerly La Coterie), a style consultancy operated out of her home on 26th Street.

The new co-presidents share many of the same goals as their predecessor.

"We're really interested in people who come to visit the city coming to Noe Valley," says Barrett.

Barrett would like visitors to San Francisco to think of Noe Valley as a tourist destination that is just a few blocks over the hill from the Castro. "We see it as an opportunity for people to enjoy our neighborhood as well."

The association will also continue to support its members—"as usual, we are interested in promoting businesses," Barrett says—as well as neighborhood residents, with special sales and events such as the annual Hayride (on Oct. 21) and the Noel Stroll in December.

She will co-chair her first meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 27, when the group convenes at 9 a.m. at the Bank of America branch at 24th and Castro.

Meanwhile, Carol Yenne, who served a three-year term as president, which is longer than most, says, "I had a lot of fun" in the job.

In her last newsletter, written in August, Yenne listed a number of accom-

plishments the association had achieved over the past few years: "modifying the restaurant zoning for 24th Street, creating new parking, creating a higher profile for the neighborhood through the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau and *Where* magazine, creation of the first Noe Valley Guide with *Rugged Elegance*, hosting parties and events to honor and celebrate small businesses, to network and to have fun."

"We also worked together with other neighborhood organizations to get the Harvest Festival going, raise awareness of earthquake safety, and raise money for

the Noe Valley Library," Yenne wrote.

"Finally we helped to create the Noe Valley Community Benefit District, which will have a lasting positive effect on the neighborhood for years to come."

Yenne's parting words to her fellow merchants were: "Get involved, engage yourselves in the process and the organization. You will find that you get more out of it than you give, and in the process, make new friends."

To contact the new co-presidents, e-mail Teresa Gay at [teresa@wardrobe911.com](mailto:teresa@wardrobe911.com) or or call Diane Barrett at 415-647-2116. ■



{Trust Building Tip #72}

If a character in your novel is based on your best friend Ryan, don't call the character Ryan.

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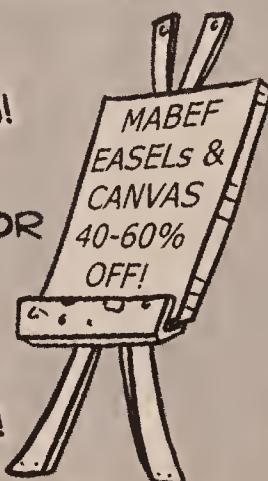


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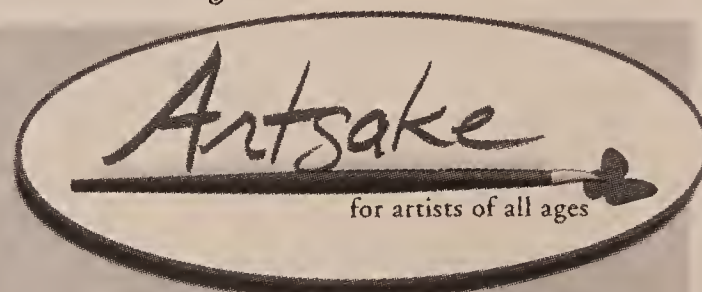
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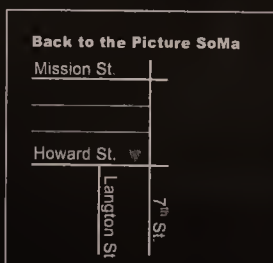
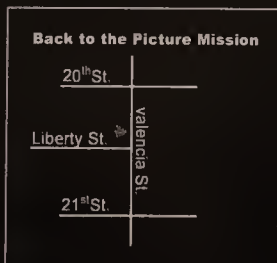
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# The Spirit of Mary Todd Lincoln

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jackie Kennedy: The president's widow should be retiring and dignified. She should disappear, not marry Aristotle Onassis.

Mary was very outspoken and people didn't want her to be outspoken. For her, it was a big conflict because she was raised to be a Southern belle [in Lexington, Ky.], and that was important to her, yet she was also ambitious and smart and wanted to be a president's wife. Growing up, she heard a lot about



Writer Janis Newman is out and about in the neighborhood, now that her 706-page novel about Mary Todd Lincoln has been shipped off to the publisher.

Photo by Ken Newman

politics because politicians came to her father's house, but Mary knew, as a lady, she was not supposed to be ambitious or care about politics. So she would try to find a way to justify her ambition to herself. In her mind, women exert power over men behind the scenes. But she had terrible impulse control and almost could not help herself in stepping into the scenes anyway.

NVV: Do you think Mary was "mad"? It seems that madness was equated with passion back in those days. Lincoln also seems wary of Mary's passion—he's afraid of going mad himself.

JCN: No, she was not insane. She was very highly strung and neurotic. She also suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder after Lincoln's death, and it got worse at the 10-year anniversary of Lincoln's killing. Her behavior points to it. She had trouble sleeping. Doctors prescribed a mix of laudanum and chloral hydrate, and the side effects can cause hallucinations and paranoia.

As for passion being equated to madness, that is a theme in the Victorian age—any strong passion is tied to insanity. Lincoln believed in logic and rationality, and he did fear madness. In the novel, he recounts to Mary the story of a young man he knew who went crazy. That was a true story and he was really affected by it. Lincoln also suffered from melancholy. And he thought that passion was irrational. So, the two ideas of passion and madness really fell together for me as I wrote the book.

I do believe that Lincoln and Mary really were truly in love. They endured a lot together, and there are accounts of their physical affection. She would always be touching him, holding his hand, smoothing his hair. In the President's House, they had separate bedrooms, but if someone needed to find him, often they would find him with her in her bed. And she spoke of it all the time, how much she loved him.

NVV: What do you think of their oldest

son, Robert Lincoln?

JCN: It's funny. My copy editor said to me once, "That Robert Lincoln—what a beast!" He is a fabulous villain to have in a book. But he did have a really difficult childhood and life. He was handsome except for having one crossed eye. His father, trying to make a name for himself in the political arena, wasn't around much during Robert's youth, and being the son of one of the greatest American presidents didn't help either. He was also a very conventional person, and hated his mother drawing attention to herself or acting unladylike.

NVV: What kind of research did you do? Did you get to do any traveling?

JCN: I did a lot of reading. Jean Baker's book [*Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography*] was essential. I'm not a historian, but when I go to write and create, I want every aspect of a scene to be accurate. It's easy to find out what places looked like. And the Internet is helpful. It's not hard to uncover information about Lincoln—there's just so much out there.

And I did go to the places in the book. I visited Mary Lincoln's house in Lexington, Kentucky, where she grew up. I also went there because I wanted to hear the accent. In Springfield, Illinois, I saw the Lincolns' house and his law office. I visited the state house where he made his speeches. In Batavia, Illinois, I saw the asylum where Mary was committed by Robert. It's now an apartment building, but it looks the same as it did when she was there. There's a museum nearby with a re-creation of Mary's room.

NVV: What was fun about writing the book?

JCN: Well, I love this time period. There are all sorts of strange things about it. There's the way people would treat lunatics and the way lunatic asylums were at the time. There were all sorts of strange remedies like tree bark for cholera. And there's the sense of the occult throughout. The séance stuff was the most fun. Everyone was a spiritualist at the time—it was really popular. I got really involved in researching it. I even wound up at a spiritualist church in San Francisco. You know, you have someone like Mary, who grew up well educated on a plantation in the care of slaves, and all around her was this slave culture with its strong beliefs in conjuring, and she was exposed to that.

NVV: What was the most difficult thing about writing the book?

JCN: Killing off her sons. I have a son who is 11 years old, and every time I had to write the death of one of Mary's sons, I had to put myself in her body and feel the grief. I had to write these scenes—and they all died at three different ages. While rewriting the death of Willy [the Lincolns' third of four sons], I had horrible dreams.

NVV: You've joked that you'll never look at a five-dollar bill the same way again. Can you elaborate?

JCN: Well, because I had to think of Lincoln as a sex object because that's how he was to Mary! [laughs] Before he died, they had this famous kiss and this intense conversation, and I had to write about it, and it's Abraham Lincoln! Now John Wilkes Booth was a sexy guy—it would have been much easier to imagine it for him.

NVV: Talk a little bit about your writing career.

JCN: I do travel writing for the *Los Angeles Times* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. I got into it while working on my first book. Memoirs are like cheap therapy done by an amateur and all by yourself. You spend all these

## From Janis Cooke Newman's *Mary: A Novel*

(May 20)

Mrs. Mary Lincoln admitted today—from Chicago—Age 56—Widow of Ex-President Lincoln—declared insane by the Cook County Court May 19—1875.

—Patient Progress Report from Bellevue Place Sanitarium

I read today the account of my attempt at suicide. It was printed in the *Chicago Inter Ocean*—on the front page, where appear all the worst stories about me. This is not to say that Doctor Patterson allows the eighteen female lunatics under his care newspapers. Indeed, he believes all news of the outside world to be excessively agitating.

It is Doctor Patterson's opinion that the tumult of late-nineteenth-century life is responsible for diseases of the brain. He explained to me during our first interview that female nerves—which are smaller than those of men—are more likely to be drained of their vitality by the chaos of modern life.

"Newspapers would only serve to overstimulate your already deranged mind," he told me.

Our interview was conducted in Doctor Patterson's office, which is fitted up like a lady's boudoir, with velvet chaises and a great many needleworked pillows. A décor designed to make comfortable the doctor's patients, all of whom are possessed of those female nerves.

"I do not believe that my mind is deranged," I said to the doctor. "Added from too much chloral hydrate and laudanum, perhaps. Unsettled by the ten-year anniversary of my husband's killing. But not deranged."

The doctor pulled at his coarsely curled hair, which he wears quite full in the back, as if to give the impression of a very large brain. "Your bladder is hysterical," he informed me.

"My bladder, I believe, was damaged by the birth of my last son."

"You are also possessed of an irritated spine."

"It is an arthritic condition which has come upon me since I passed fifty."

"And you have engaged in the religious excitement of séance."

"As has Queen Victoria and fully one-third of the gentlemen of my husband's cabinet."

I had perhaps sounded too definite in defense of my sanity, for Doctor Patterson raked at his unruly beard with impatience.

"How long shall I have to stay at Bellevue Place?" I asked, in a tone more meek.

Doctor Patterson relaxed back in his leather chair, the only masculine furniture in the room. "You should not dwell too much upon leaving," he told me.

"But seeing an end to my time here will make the days more tolerable."

I watched the doctor handle the paperweight he kept upon his desk, a dragonfly caught

hours delving within yourself, so to take a break, I would spend some hours writing travel. I started writing for the *Noe Valley Voice* after we moved from Marin to the city when Alex was 4. I read the *Voice* and I thought, What a cool paper. So I begged Sally [Smith, the editor] to let me write something. We came up with an essay for the Last Page about moving to the city. I kept pestering her for a column and we decided it had to be something useful. We came up with travel writing about places to take kids in the Bay Area ["Are We There Yet? Family Adventures Close to Home"]. I only stopped when I got the contract for *Mary*.

I teach classes for Book Passage, both in Marin and at the Ferry Building.

I also teach classes with the Writing Salon, and I have a private women-only class that I run. Those women are so great—they kept me from getting too weird while writing *Mary*. There were all these intense days of writing alone with no time off, especially in the last few months because the book was a year late. I owe a debt to my students—they kept me from becoming a crazy lady hermit.

Janis Cooke Newman will be signing *Mary: A Novel* at Cover to Cover Booksellers, 1307 Castro Street, on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 4 p.m. A portion of the sale of her books will be donated to Synergy School. In addition, she'll appear at Bookshop West Portal on Sept. 13 and Books Inc. at Opera Plaza on Oct. 4.



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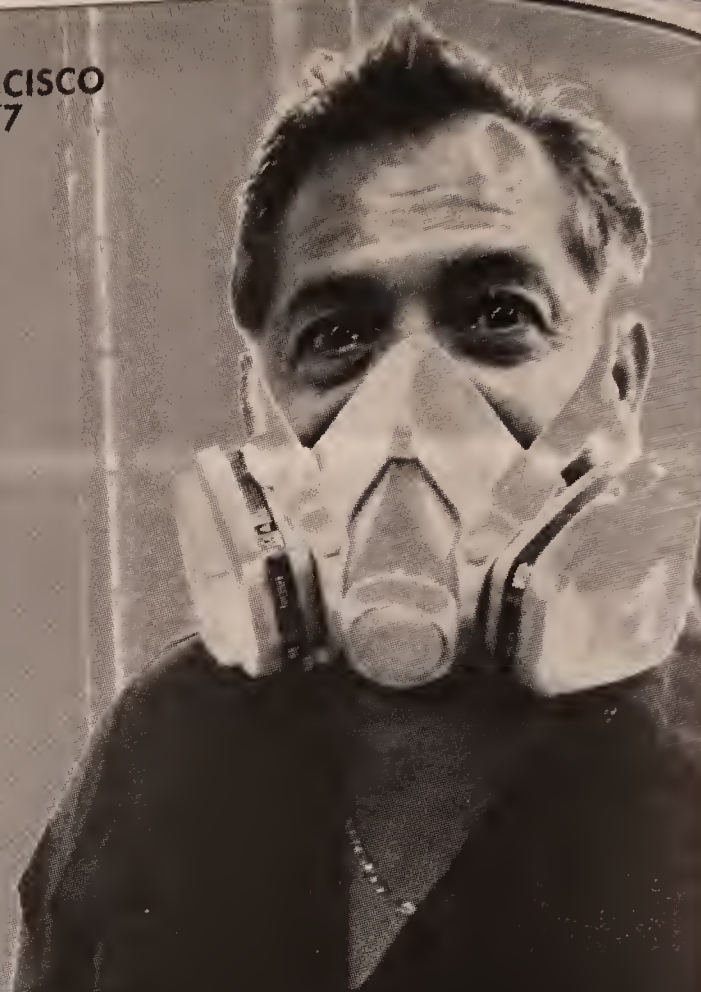
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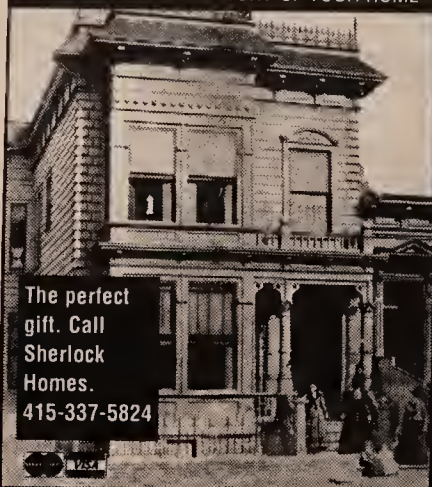


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# LOCAL GEMS

## Tuggey's Hardware: 107-Year-Old Icon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sawyer's Hardware in 1898, but was renamed Tuggey's when William Tuggey bought it a year or so later. Tuggey passed the store on to his son Gene, who sold it to Denny Giovannoli's father, Bob Giovannoli, in 1957.

His dad was a perfect fit for the hardware business, Denny says. Living just a few blocks away on Sanchez Street, Bob started out as a delivery boy at age 16, and returned to work fulltime at Tuggey's after serving the Army as a CPA during World War II.

The Tuggey family soon recognized his talents.

"Gene decided one day that my dad was going to buy [the store]. He closed the front door and said, 'Come on, we're going to the bank today. You're going to buy it today,'" Denny recalls. "He made it real easy for him. It was pretty neat."

The first few years were fairly difficult, as "Noe Valley was empty then," says Denny, who along with his three brothers and sister grew up working in the store. "All the stores [on 24th Street] were vacant. There was very little business here." But his father's commitment to customer service kept the business alive. "Making sure people got what they needed and were taken care of came first," says Denny.



Tuggey's owner Denny Giovannoli (right) has a crew these days that includes Geary Holst, Ron Peetz, and Giovannoli's 14-year-old son, Alex.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Bob sold Denny the business in 1976, and officially retired, but he continued to work in the store for many years. He passed away in 1995.

"My dad was a real role model," Denny says with admiration. "He was a good listener. Certain people have a certain way about them, where they teach without even trying to. And he seemed to have that quality, which taught me a lot, too."

Now Denny, who lives in San Anselmo with his wife Laura and their son Alex, is teaching the trade to the next generation.

Guitar-player Alex, 14, has been helping out at the store since he was 10.

"I learn a lot from my dad, like fixing things and his work ethic," Alex says. "And the guys who work here, Ron and Geary, I learn a lot from them, too—to keep moving and when something needs to get done, you do it."

Ron Peetz is Tuggey's only full-time employee. Geary Holst and Jordan Park both work part-time. As for Denny, he puts in 70 hours a week, arriving daily at 7:15 a.m. and leaving typically around

5:30 p.m. At 57 he says, "It's a lot of work, but it's been worth it. I'd rather do this than work for somebody else."

Denny handles all the inventory, using a tried-and-true strategy he learned from his father. "There's a formula here, even though it doesn't look like there is," he laughs. "Keep it basic. And just get plenty of it. The new things that come out that are basic, you get those also."

The open, clean-swept hardware store

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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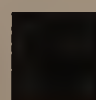


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Excerpt from *Mary: A Novel*

Continued from page 13

in amber—an object which feels cruel to me, put before ladies who have been committed here. “You will remain at Bellevue Place,” said Doctor Patterson, “until I—and your son—determine that your reason has been restored.”

“And how shall you determine such a thing?”

The doctor rose and went to stand before a lace-curtained window which looked out upon the lawns surrounding the asylum. “Treatment at Bellevue Place,” he explained, “is based upon the wholesome benefits of fresh air, moderate exercise, and the therapeutic effects of cooling baths, in addition to the essential practice—particularly for those of the female sex—of moral restraint.” He turned to regard me with a stern expression. “I shall decide your sanity by your willingness to participate in these activities.”

“I shall do whatever you require to prove my underangement,” I told him.

\* \* \*

I have been told by the doctor’s wife that my room is one of the best of the asylum, in recognition of the position I once held. That may be so—I have not seen where the other inmates are kept. Still, the room makes me think too much of a second-class boardinghouse. The bureau is oak and was once decorated with acanthus leaves, which have long since fallen away, leaving behind their ghostly outlines. I have also a rocker which has been made to an odd geometry, and when I sit upon it, it makes me feel as if it wishes nothing more than to pitch me to the floor. The room possesses a table, covered with a cloth which has lost half its tassels, and a strange little desk decorated with the carved face of an angel at the joining of each of its legs. Only the mattress is new, for I had it brought here on my first day—less to keep myself from sleeping upon bedbugs, as to avoid placing my head where others have dreamt their mad dreams.

I have a view of the river from my one window, but there are bars over the glass.

Shutting the door behind me—although a desire for privacy is thought at Bellevue Place to demonstrate an unwillingness to participate in the institution’s therapeutic activities—I dropped into the inhospitable rocker and took the newspaper clipping from my pocket.

“On the evening following her trial for insanity,” I read between the cuts on the page, “Mrs. Lincoln, overcome by melancholy, eluded the Pinkerton guards stationed outside the door of her hotel room and escaped to the pharmacy of Squair & Company. Acting in appearance both anxious and incoherent, Mrs. Lincoln demanded of the druggist a lethal mixture of laudanum and camphor. When Mr. Squair expressed concern over providing such a poisonous concoction, the despairing lady informed him that she intended to use the potion to bathe a neuralgic shoulder. Unable to dissuade Mrs. Lincoln from her request, the druggist retired to a back room, and after some short moments, during which the demented lady grew increasingly agitated, Mr. Squair returned with a bottle marked ‘Laudanum—poison.’ Grabbing the potion from the druggist’s hand, Mrs. Lincoln rushed into the street; whereupon, she immediately poured the entire contents into her throat. Then, she returned to her hotel to await her death.

“The nation was only spared further sorrow by the fact that Mr. Squair had recognized the Widow of the Martyred President beneath her veil, and divining her purpose, substituted burnt sugar water for the laudanum.”

*No one would believe this of me, I told myself. No one would believe that a fifty-six-year-old lady who is slightly arthritic and plumper than she should be could escape two Pinkertons. No one who knows me could believe that after all which has happened in my life, I would choose to end my life over commitment to the madhouse.*

*But of course they will believe it. For now that I have been proven insane, anything might be believed of me.*

Excerpt from *Mary: A Novel* by Janis Cooke Newman. Copyright © 2006. Permission granted by MacAdam/Cage Publishing.

## Tuggey’s Hardware

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

does indeed carry a large selection of the basics, neatly arranged on pegs and in bins. The shop stocks everything from nuts and bolts, literally, to batteries, cleaning products, gardening tools, audio/visual cords, power drills, and ladders. The largest selection can be found in the plumbing section, which is Tuggey’s specialty. “I was going to be a plumber,” Denny explains.

Customer David Plotkin, a contractor with Granite Electric, stops by to pick up caulk and a couple of screws. Plotkin says, “Tuggey’s is a great place. I work all over the city, but I come whenever I’m in the neighborhood. They’re a terrific little neighborhood store—always worth stopping.”

Peetz confirms that a lot of the store’s customers are contractors, even from outside the state, because “we’re the only ones that carry the parts,” he says.

But most of Tuggey’s customers are Noe Valley neighbors. And perhaps surprisingly, a lot are women. Denny says 50 percent of his customers are women, “during the week, especially,” he notes. “They’re putting in light bulbs and fixing things. We get a lot of women who are

handy people. A lot of them are doing work for other people, which is pretty cool.”

The words are barely out of his mouth when Fiona Smythe and her 18-month-old daughter Chloe arrive to pick up some light bulbs. “Whatever we happen to need they generally seem to have it,” Smythe says as Chloe runs up and down the aisle. “And I much prefer coming here than going to the bigger hardware stores. It’s local, that’s a big reason we come. There’s always someone to help you, which is really nice—I always have a question because I’m just not that experienced when it comes to hardware.”

The section Denny plans to expand next is the electrical supplies. He intends to continue adding more and more stock to the store until he’s ready to sell. He hopes to retire by the time he’s 62.

He’s already arranged a new display of lighting fixtures and shades next to the front window—which might get in the way come December, when it’s time to lay out the electric train.

“Kids wait for the train at the holidays,” he says. “There was one year when I wasn’t going to do it, and my dad said, ‘You’ve got to do it.’ He said, ‘You started it and the kids wait for it,’ and I said, ‘I

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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#### From the Tuggey's Hardware Photo Album:

Top—Denny Giovannoli (left) learns the nuts and bolts from father Bob Giovannoli at right, while Herb Gaines, retired owner of Herb's Fine Foods, demonstrates how to run the till.  
1975 photo by Chuck Krall

Left—Bob Giovannoli poses in the home and garden section of Tuggey's.

Photo courtesy of Tuggey's Hardware

Above—Bob Giovannoli chats up a customer. 1980 photo by Irene Kane

## Three Generations of Giovannolis Carry on the Tuggey's Tradition

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

don't feel like it.' He said, 'Well, you have to do it. And then we had Alex, and it's fun. The kids really like it.'

Elmer and Elmira, the two dummies that sit in the shop's window, are another specialty enjoyed by children and adults

alike. Elmer is dressed in Denny's father's baseball cap and Elmira wears an old dress of Laura's.

"We have people who actually stop here and talk to them!" says Denny. "And the kids are just mesmerized. They'll come in and they'll touch them. In fact, one year I had a walkie-talkie. The kids

would come in and they'd touch them, and I'd go, 'What do you want?' and they'd just jump. We've done a few things that are pretty funny, but that was a lot of fun."

But serving the customers is still the best part of the job, he says. "Tuggey's is like a big living room because with most of the people, in fact all of them, we've

become friends. Even if we don't know each other by name, it's a very friendly atmosphere, a very comfortable place to be. And we're very lucky."

*Kate Volkman is writing a series on the history of businesses in Noe Valley. She also does oral histories for families and companies.*



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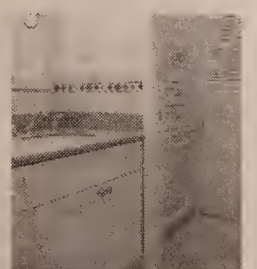
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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## Sales Slow Down Over Summer

By Corrie M. Anders

The number of homes sold in Noe Valley during July dropped by a third from one year ago—the latest indication that the neighborhood’s hyperactive housing market is finally calming down.

Sixteen single-family homes closed escrow in July, compared to 24 sales the previous July, according to data provided to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

Prices remained the purview of the well-heeled, however. All but three of the homes sold for \$1 million or more—and the average sales price topped \$1.2 million.

Still, home shoppers, sensing that the market was shifting toward buyers, paid closer attention to their pocketbooks than in the past. Buyers on average paid 7 percent above the seller’s asking price in July, a significant reduction from the 15 percent extra they were willing to pay one year earlier.

The sales pace was also slower in June of this year, as compared with June of 2005. A total of 13 homes changed hands, compared with 15 sales the previous year. Buyers also reined in their overbidding, paying just 5 percent more than the asking price instead of an extra 14 percent as they did in June of last year.

The data show that Noe Valley’s real estate market has become less robust, and

that five straight years of mercurial appreciation has sharply reduced the number of people who can afford to buy homes in the neighborhood.

One oddity in Noe Valley’s market is that prices remain high—and are rising in some cases—while sales have tumbled. There’s about a six-month lag time between a period of softer sales and when prices level off, explains Randall Kostick, general sales manager of Zephyr Real Estate on 24th Street.

“[What] happens when the market starts to cool a little bit is that we get buyers and sellers in conflict with one another,” says Kostick.

“Sellers think they should be getting the prices and ease of sales that was taking place six months ago,” he says, “and buyers think they should be getting a deal and not be paying prices they paid six months ago.”

That keeps buyers and sellers from making quicker deals, and creates a stalemate.

If you’re curious about the most expensive homes sold during the summer, here’s a quick rundown:

■ A 4,000-square-foot, three-bedroom, 2½-bath home, located in the 200 block of Fair Oaks Street, between 23rd and 24th streets, sold in July for \$2,450,000.

■ In June, buyers paid \$2,425,000 for a 3,300-square-foot, four-bedroom, 3½-bath home, in the 500 block of Diamond Street, between 22nd and 23rd streets.

■ A three-bedroom, 2½-bath condominium, in the 300 block of Duncan Street, between Church and Sanchez streets, sold in July for \$1.4 million.

■ In June, a condo in the 900 block of Elizabeth Street, between Hoffman and Grand View avenues, set back the new owners \$1,350,000. The condo featured three bedrooms and 2½ baths. ■

## Noe Valley May Hold Its Own, Housing Experts Say

By John Trinkl

For most of the summer, the talk in real estate and economic circles was about a slowdown in housing sales, both nationally and in the Bay Area.

According to DataQuick, a real estate information company, sales of homes and condominiums in the Bay Area fell nearly 31 percent in July. And though the median price of a home in San Francisco rose to \$832,000, its appreciation was only 4 percent over the same month a year before.

A panel of local experts put this slowdown into historical perspective and discussed the present and future outlook for housing in Noe Valley at a July 19 forum cosponsored by Friends of Noe Valley and the Noe Valley Democratic Club.

*San Francisco Chronicle* reporter Kelly Zito, who has covered the Bay Area real estate market for four years, joked that “talking about real estate is a big sport in the Bay Area.” Still, she tried to make sense of current trends. She agreed that the San Francisco real estate market was slowing, but slowing compared to the abnormally hot months of 2004 and 2005, when appreciation peaked at 25 percent. The moderate rise the city has been experiencing over the past 18 months is much closer to “normal” for this area, she said.

B.J. Droubi, whose real estate company has been in Noe Valley since 1972, looked further back in history and described three downturns: 1979–81, when interest rates were at an historical high: 1992–97, when there was a recession and the market was flat; and now, when the market is reaching the end of another business cycle.

But she ticked off a host of reasons why Noe Valley might be relatively immune to strong fluctuations: “Noe Valley is in the center of the city; it has the most attractive route to the Peninsula and Silicon Valley; it has some of the best housing stock; there’s an incredible diversity of homes and diversity of incomes; it has a great quality of life. Noe Valley holds its value quite well,” she concluded.

There are larger reasons for stability as well. “The economic base here is very stable,” argued Randall Kostick, manager of Zephyr Real Estate. The Bay Area is a gateway to the growing economies of the Pacific Rim and Far East, and there are diverse and relatively strong industries: tourism, finance, high-tech, and biotech, he pointed out.

Kostick said the market cycles had not been all that dramatic here. In the downturn of the early 1990s, when there was as much as a 50 percent decline in hous-

ing prices in parts of California, the decline in Noe Valley was only 11 percent, he said. Even in the dot-com bust, when 300,000 jobs were lost in the Bay Area, he added, the housing market didn’t suffer significantly.

How does it look for people who are trying to buy houses or rent apartments? In a word, pricey.

Joel Panzer of RMC, a local rental management company, said the absolute lowest price you could rent an apartment for in Noe Valley was \$1,300 to \$1,400 per month, for a studio. And according to RentSlicer, a rentals listing service, the average rent this summer for all types of apartments in Noe Valley was \$2,690. (For the latest average rents, see the “Noe Valley Rents” chart at left.) Panzer noted that a quarter of renters paid more than 50 percent of their income on rent.

As for buying a home, Kostick reported that new home buyers in Noe Valley were paying \$6,000 to \$7,000 mortgage payments a month and \$11,000 a year in taxes. According to the California Association of Realtors, only 14 percent of families in California can afford a median-priced home.

So who can buy a home in Noe Valley? The panelists described wealthy young software developers, stem cell researchers, and foreign businesspeople as among those who came through their doors and had no problem slapping down \$1 to \$3 million for a house. But for others of more modest means, “The first purchase is what is so difficult,” Droubi said.

“Family assistance is a big factor in enabling people to get their first house,” said Kostick. They use “the National Bank of Mom and Dad,” as *Money* magazine put it. Last year, 37 percent of first-time homebuyers’ down payments were at least in part from a family member or friend, according to the National Association of Realtors.

A case study of a Noe Valley housing seeker joined the panel a little late.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty regaled the audience with advice on how to maneuver through the Planning Department’s red tape, should Noe Valley residents decide to remodel their homes instead of buy or sell.

However, what the audience really wanted to hear were some juicy vignettes from his local housing search. (As reported in the *Voice* last May, Dufty and longtime friend Rebecca Goldfader are looking for a home in Noe Valley to accommodate both them and their baby-to-be.)

Dufty has been around too long to be shocked or discouraged by the steep prices and lack of vacancies in one of San Francisco’s most popular neighborhoods. He said only that he was postponing his house hunt until after the November election. ■

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
July 2006	16	\$764,000	\$2,450,000	\$1,230,250	27	107%
June 2006	13	\$865,000	\$2,425,000	\$1,496,692	26	105%
May 2006	13	\$900,000	\$2,400,000	\$1,476,769	21	108%
July 2005	24	\$750,000	\$2,279,000	\$1,258,037	21	115%
June 2005	15	\$805,000	\$1,862,500	\$1,214,767	24	114%
Condominiums						
July 2006	14	\$635,000	\$1,400,000	\$888,206	34	103%
June 2006	11	\$675,000	\$1,350,000	\$892,545	42	102%
May 2006	6	\$629,000	\$1,110,000	\$817,500	33	106%
July 2005	7	\$775,000	\$1,210,500	\$1,030,500	38	108%
June 2005	15	\$712,500	\$1,342,000	\$925,367	32	114%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
July 2006	6	\$1,050,000	\$2,450,000	\$1,381,667	40	94%
June 2006	4	\$1,295,000	\$2,820,000	\$1,847,500	46	97%
May 2006	2	\$1,123,000	\$1,630,000	\$1,376,500	33	109%
July 2005	4	\$1,190,000	\$2,279,000	\$1,706,000	45	108%
June 2005	3	\$985,000	\$1,436,093	\$1,256,364	44	107%
5+ unit buildings						
July 2006	0	—	—	—	—	—
June 2006	0	—	—	—	—	—
May 2006	0	—	—	—	—	—
July 2005	2	\$1,700,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,800,000	57	107%
June 2005	1	\$1,975,000	\$1,975,000	\$1,975,000	50	104%

\* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate ([www.zephyrsf.com](http://www.zephyrsf.com)) for supplying the sales data. NVV 9/06

### Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents August 2006	Average August 2006	Average A Year Ago
Studio	3	\$1,275 – \$1,350	\$1,300 / mo.	\$1,149 / mo.
1-bedroom	15	\$1,250 – \$2,500	\$1,772 / mo.	\$1,588 / mo.
2-bedroom	14	\$2,000 – \$5,000	\$2,891 / mo.	\$2,359 / mo.
3-bedroom	15	\$2,695 – \$4,800	\$3,438 / mo.	\$3,274 / mo.
4+-bedroom	5	\$4,200 – \$6,900	\$5,300 / mo.	\$6,200 / mo.

\*\* Survey based on a sample of 52 Noe Valley listings appearing on *Craigslist.com* from Aug. 2 to 14, 2006. NVV 9/06

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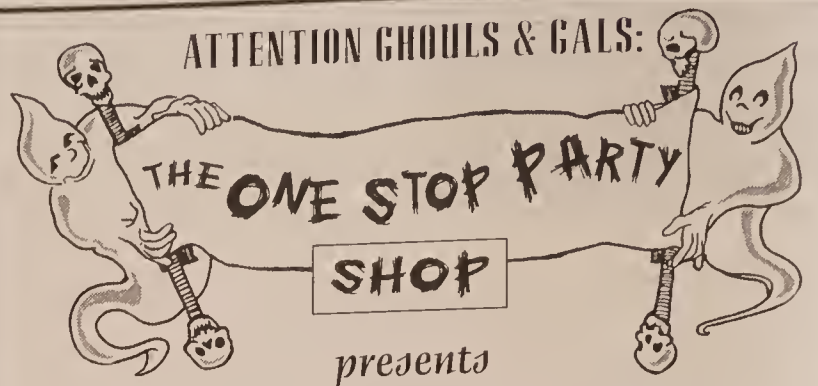
The UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies is seeking gay male couples to participate in a study which examines important relationship dynamics associated with HIV.

Participation involves completing a computerized survey six times over a period of three years. The survey takes about 90 minutes to complete, and both partners must participate. Each partner completes the survey in a private cubicle, and will receive \$40 for each visit.



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# POLICE BEAT

*Editor's Note: Police Beat is a review of crime incidents in Noe Valley occurring in the most recent month for which we have statistics. The area covered is bordered by Grand View, 21st, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The June and July 2006 crime information was culled from police newsletters and incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside Police Stations.*

## Attacks on Church and Fair Oaks Still Unsolved

By Erin O'Briant

The summer has been difficult for some residents of Noe Valley. Fortunately, no rape cases were reported in the months of June and July—after three reports of rape in May and one in April. The news isn't all good, though: a string of street robberies has alarmed residents (*see story at right*), a man was beaten unconscious on Church Street, and a neighborhood woman was threatened with rape when a man broke into her home.

A burglar broke into the Fair Oaks Street home in the early morning hours of Sunday, July 9. He held his victim at gunpoint and forced her to disrobe. The suspect threatened the victim with rape and commanded her to walk through the house opening drawers and doors. Fortunately, the suspect did not actually rape the victim.

Dewayne Tully, spokesman for the San Francisco Police Department Public Affairs Office, said that a burglary inspector has been working in conjunction with

the sex crimes unit to investigate the case. "Police worked on leads and identified two suspects, but the victim could not identify them in a photographic lineup," he explained. The inspectors are continuing to follow up on leads, but in mid-August the suspect was still at large.

Another Noe Valley crime victim faced life-threatening injuries. For reasons that were not clear to police, a man was brutally attacked on Church Street between 23rd and 24th streets by six suspects on Wednesday, July 19. The victim suffered a serious head injury and was unconscious when police arrived. Medics transported him to the hospital. The case inspector would not provide additional information.

A man who was waiting for a bus at Church and 30th streets in the late afternoon of Thursday, July 27, reported that two suspects approached him, interrogated him about gang activity, and then demanded money. When the victim tried to walk away, the suspects stabbed him in the side. The victim was able to walk to a hospital for assistance.

### Arrests Made

Officers made a number of arrests during June and July. On Tuesday, June 13, Ingleside police officers responded to a report of a suspect with a weapon on the bus at 29th and Church streets. The bus driver directed police to a man on the street, and the officers discovered that the suspect was carrying brass knuckles. He was arrested.

Officers went to a church in the 300 block of 29th Street on Tuesday, June 20, to help with an ongoing problem: a person sleeping regularly on the premises. They discovered that the suspect, who was apparently homeless, was wanted on felony assault and battery charges; an arrest was made.

A resident of Clipper Street was arrested on multiple counts Thursday, June 29, after he stole a car in Alameda with a "master key" and then drove it for two days. Officers saw the suspect driving suspiciously at 24th and Noe streets and also found that he was in possession of narcotics.

### Odd Crimes

Many unusual incidents took place in the neighborhood during June and July. Residents of Noe Valley made several reports of obscene phone calls. Someone reported that a person in the 500 block of Elizabeth Street attempted to poison an animal, and two cases of dog bites were reported, one in the 1500 block of Dolores Street on June 15 and another in the 800 block of Douglass Street on Tuesday, June 27. A suspect set fire to a vehicle in the 400 block of Elizabeth Street; the incident was reported on Friday, June 2, at 3:45 p.m.

### The Usual Suspects

As usual, vehicle thefts occurred throughout the neighborhood during June and July. The area south of Clipper Street and west of Castro Street seems to be a relatively safe place to park a car, but autos were stolen from every other part of Noe Valley. Burglaries, too, happened throughout the neighborhood, with heavy concentration west of Castro Street and north of Cesar Chavez Street. Vandals hit four times on (or just off) Church Street, once on Fair Oaks, once on Jersey, once at Dolores and 29th streets, and once on Castro near 22nd Street. Yet another act of vandalism occurred on Noe Street at 25th Street.

*The Voice thanks Noe Valley Police Officer Andrew MacIlrath and Ingleside Police Station Captain Paul Chignell for their help in providing information for this month's Police Beat.*

## Increase in Muggings Part of Citywide Trend

By Erin O'Briant

Seven muggings, many of them with guns, took place in Noe Valley during June and July, according to incident reports filed with the San Francisco Police Department. Three more, plus an armed robbery, occurred just outside the boundaries of the neighborhood. Police say the numbers aren't surprising, considering a city-wide rise in street robberies.

A 14-year-old was robbed of a cell phone and iPod at 30th and Sanchez streets in the early afternoon on Wednesday, June 21. The suspect simulated carrying a gun. A suspect also used a gun in a street robbery at Clipper and Sanchez streets on Thursday, July 27. "Strongarm" robberies, where the suspects threatened force, occurred at Dolores and 28th streets on Tuesday, June 6; at Jersey and Sanchez streets on Thursday, June 29; and at Diamond and Elizabeth streets on Monday, July 17.

An attempted robbery took place on 24th Street between Castro and Noe streets on Sunday, July 2, around 8 p.m. According to a report from Mission Station, the suspects showed their would-be victims, who were window-shopping, a gun and demanded money. When the victims yelled for help, the suspects fled. Officers detained the suspects several blocks away, and the victims were able to identify them. One adult and one juvenile were arrested. A store was robbed at gunpoint around the same time on Castro Street adjacent to 24th Street.

A Fair Oaks Street woman and a companion were held at gunpoint while walking home from a laundromat on Saturday, June 24, at approximately 2 p.m. The suspect demanded the victims' cash and cell phone, which he took. He then escaped, possibly with accomplices in a vehicle. Police were unable to find the suspect at the time, but later arrested him, according to Lt. John Loftus, who is in charge of the SFPD's Robbery Detail.

Just a stone's throw from Noe Valley, a strongarm mugging happened at 24th Street and San Jose Avenue on Monday, June 5. A street robbery without a gun took place in the 100 block of Randall Street on Wednesday, July 12, but muggers used a gun in a street robbery at 24th and Guerrero streets on Monday, July 31. An armed robbery with a gun also took place in the 100 block of Tiffany Avenue that day. The robberies and muggings have happened at all times of day and night and are not concentrated in the evening hours.

According to Loftus, this increase in robberies is part of a larger trend. "We're not exactly sure what's driving these additional robberies [in San Francisco]," he notes. "We're seeing a lot of robberies being reported for iPods, cell phones, and laptop computers. So we think the new societal trend wherein people are walking around carrying these electronic devices is proving a tempting target."

In another common scenario, says Loftus, "We see cases where the suspect will initiate contact with the victim and ask for \$2, the person gives it to [the suspect], and then they still get robbed."

Although this number of street robberies is unusual for the neighborhood, some other kinds of violent incidents happened during the same time period a year ago. In June and July of 2005, one strongarm street robbery was reported, along with an attempted homicide at 24th and Guerrero streets, gang activity on Elizabeth Street, an assault with caustic chemicals, and an aggravated assault with bodily force. The year before that, in June and July of 2004, there was an armed robbery at Radio Shack and an aggravated assault case that resulted in injuries to several people, including police officers.

Asked what he could say to neighbors about street crime in Noe Valley, Loftus said, "We don't see Noe Valley as being in any way targeted."

### How to Contact the SFPD

The public is invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly at the Ingleside and Mission Police Stations.

Ingleside meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. Mission community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street.

Noe Valleyans who live north of Cesar Chavez Street (within the bounds of the Mission Police District) may contact Mission Station by calling 558-5400 or e-mailing [SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us).

To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call Mission Station's hotline at 575-4444.

Residents and merchants in Upper Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez Street—may contact Ingleside police by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing [SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us). The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984.

For citywide online reporting, go to [www.sfgov.org/sitelpolice](http://www.sfgov.org/sitelpolice).

To sign up for Ingleside Station's daily crime e-newsletter, e-mail Ingleside Capt. Paul Chignell at [Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org](mailto:Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org).

To request the Mission e-newsletter, write Capt. John Goldberg at [SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us).

To report a crime in progress, call 911. To report a non-emergency event or problem, call 553-0123.

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- Liv/rm w/fireplace
- BAS finished in granite, slate and marble
- Hardwood floors. Washer/dryer. Rear Patio.

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# SHORT TAKES

By Erin O'Briant

## Noe Courts Will Be Jumpin'

Join music-loving neighbors for the third annual Music in the Park picnic on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Noe Courts Park at the corner of 24th and Douglass Streets. The event is a fundraiser for park upgrades, but admission is free.

"All three bands are great," says Richard May of Friends of Noe Valley, which is cosponsoring the event with the San Francisco Parks Trust.

Noe Valley residents Sharon Gillenwater and Jimmy Goetz will take the stage as the rockin' Playdate. The Jakes, who advertise themselves as "the Bay Area's best damn blues band," won't leave anyone blue. And the San Francisco School of Rock, a group of super-talented 10- to 15-year-olds, will cover classics from Queen, Led Zeppelin, and the Who. "Sounds truly fab, doesn't it?" says May.

A "jumpy tent" will be on hand for the kids. "Kids can enter, bounce off the walls, flop on the floor, and generally mess around without getting hurt," May says.

The barbecue grill and wine bar will be staffed by Chef Scott Maddux and members of Friends. Food and drink will be available for purchase, and all proceeds will go toward the upcoming renovation of Noe Courts Park. Plans for the renovation will also be on display.

## Harvest Fest Has a Scarecrow

Kenzie Maloney, a 10-year-old sixth-grader at St. Philip's School, won the Noe Valley Harvest Festival Logo Contest this year for her drawing of a scarecrow. She's working with a graphic designer to turn it into the official logo for the festival, which will appear on all festival signs and merchandise.

Kenzie's mom, Norine Traci-Maloney, is the festival chair. She was supposed to be one of the judges of the contest but stepped down from the panel because her daughter's artwork was under consideration. The runner-up was Deserea Sabo, age 13, also a student at St. Philip's.

Traci-Maloney says festival-goers can expect last year's fun, and much more, at the second annual event, which takes place Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. "The main change is that we may be able to have food this year," says Traci-Maloney. She's not promising anything, but says the Harvest Festival organizers are trying to have several food choices available at the fair, which will stretch along 24th Street from Sanchez to Church. In addition, the Noe Valley Farmers' Market will be open all day.

Four or five bands will take the stage, including Groovus Funk and the blues band the Nitecaps. An array of student musicians from San Francisco's School of the Arts also will perform. Entertainment for the kids will include a caricature artist, a magician, Monster Twister, pumpkin-painting, a treasure hunt, and the popular stroller obstacle course. There will be a costume contest for human children and a pet costume contest for folks whose kids have four legs.

All sorts of arts and crafts will be for sale, including jewelry, photography, children's clothes, handmade chocolates, and even belt buckles, according to Traci-Maloney. Tae Kwon Do performers will demonstrate their skills, and schools and local clubs will make an appearance. "Things are really looking good," Traci-Maloney says.

Volunteers are needed for the day of the event. To offer your services, e-mail

Norine at [norine@nyharvestfestival.com](mailto:norine@nyharvestfestival.com). To check out Kenzie's scarecrow, go to the web site ([www.nyharvestfestival.com](http://www.nyharvestfestival.com)) or see page 7 in this month's Voice.

## Scotch Plaid Optional

If you've ever dreamed of wearing a kilt—or dancing with someone who did—it's time to discover Scottish country dancing. This fall, the San Francisco Scottish Country Dancers will celebrate their 21st year of dancing at the Noe Valley Ministry. Part of the celebration includes inviting more people to join in. "We try to welcome everyone and get them dancing right away," says dancer Susie Landon Kass. "We do dances with very easy patterns and have the newcomers dance with experienced dancers."

A free introductory lesson will be held at the Ministry, 1021 Sanchez near 23rd Street, on Thursday, Sept. 7, from 8 to 10 p.m. The lesson and party will provide a chance for newcomers to find out what Scottish dancing is all about, enjoy a few refreshments and live music, and meet veteran dancers. All you need to bring is yourself (no partner needed) and a pair of soft-soled shoes such as sneakers.

The Scottish Dancers also will present a second demonstration and hold open dancing at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market, located on 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez streets, on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Look for the kilts.

## Any Problems with Noe Valley?

What's wrong with Noe Valley? You're invited to answer that question at the next meeting of the Friends of Noe Valley on Thursday, Sept. 21, from 7:30 until 9 p.m.

The neighborhood association will present the results of a survey on local issues and invite comments on priorities for the coming year. Come ready to discuss possible improvements for the neighborhood and identify problems that haven't been addressed. A new board will be elected at a brief meeting just before the community forum, and the group's new leaders will use the results of the survey and the meeting to direct their activities.

The meeting will take place at St. Philip's Church Parish Hall, on Diamond Street between 24th and Elizabeth streets. If you'd like to suggest topics but can't attend the meeting, contact group president Richard May at [rambooks@pacbell.net](mailto:rambooks@pacbell.net).

## Wild Parrots Film Roosts at Pier 39

Former Noe Valleyan Judy Irving caused quite a flutter with her award-winning documentary *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*. Now the tale of the remarkable relationship between a homeless street musician and a flock of wild parrots in San Francisco has again found a venue on the big screen. You can enjoy San Francisco's famous parrots at Theatre 39 on Monday, Sept. 4, Tuesday, Sept. 6, and Monday, Sept. 11, at 2 p.m.

The theater is located at the corner of Beach Street and Embarcadero. Look for surprise appearances by Irving, the film's human star Mark Bittner, and "Big Bird," a cherry-headed conure from the wild flock. Tickets cost \$10 to \$12 for these special events. For tickets, call 415-433-3939 or visit [www.pelicanmedia.org](http://www.pelicanmedia.org).

## Big Grants for Artists

The Creative Work Fund has about half a million dollars to dole out to visual and traditional artists working in collaboration with nonprofits.

Grants range from \$10,000 to \$35,000 and are earmarked for artists living in Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, San Francisco, Solano, or Sonoma counties, and organizations based in those counties.

The Creative Work Fund has con-

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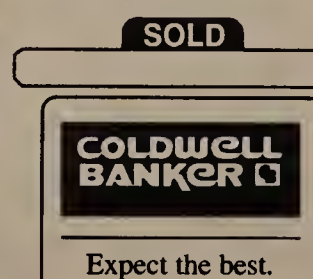
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# SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

tributed more than \$5.5 million to advance the work of San Francisco- and Alameda County-based artists. The fund was formed by four family foundations in San Francisco as a way to honor artistic excellence and contribute to the creation of new work by local artists.

Because the grant proposal process is highly competitive, the fund's staff is holding a series of optional informational seminars. The one in San Francisco happens Tuesday, Sept. 26, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., in the Koshland Room of the San Francisco Foundation at 225 Bush Street. Call 415-402-2794 to reserve a seat at least two days before the seminar.

Application guidelines are available on the Creative Work Fund's web site at [www.creativeworkfund.org](http://www.creativeworkfund.org); call the number above for a printed call for proposals. All letters of inquiry must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3.

## Parents Needed for Homeless Bunnies

San Francisco Animal Care and Control is searching for people willing to adopt or foster a pet rabbit. This summer, the organization received an abundance of bunnies, many abandoned by former owners. In late August, 19 homeless rabbits were still living at the ACC shelter.

According to the ACC's announcement, Marcy Schaaf of Save a Bunny has worked tirelessly to find permanent homes for all of them. Thanks to her efforts, no rabbits have been euthanized in three years. That could change, though, unless more people are willing to take a bunny into their home.

Anyone willing to adopt or foster a rabbit should call 554-6364. To learn more about bunnies as pets, visit Schaaf's web site at [www.saveabunny.com](http://www.saveabunny.com). To visit the rabbits in person, stop by Animal Care and Control, 1200 15th Street near Harrison Street. ACC's kennels are open from noon until 6 p.m. every day except Wednesdays, when they stay open until 7 p.m.

## Freedom Band Conductor's Farewell Show

Jadine Louie, who has served as artistic director and conductor of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band for more than a decade, takes the podium on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 8 p.m., for the last time. Her farewell concert, titled "The Best Is Yet to Come," will include guest performances by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco; guest soloists including mezzo-soprano Leslie Hassberg; a memorabilia display; and a program of "some of the flashiest music ever written for wind ensemble," performed by the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. "It's my last

whirl around the block as artistic director here, so I'm really letting my imagination fly," says Louie. "Expect a program that will bring the house down."

The concert takes place at Everett Middle School Auditorium, located at 450 Church Street near 17th Street. Admission is \$25, or \$50 for preferred seating. For tickets or more information, call 415-255-1355 or visit [www.sflgb.org](http://www.sflgb.org).

## University Welcomes Folks Over 60

Anyone over age 60 is welcome to sign up for 60 Plus at San Francisco State University, a lifelong learning organization. Program activities begin in September, so now's the time to join. Members meet on campus twice a month to hear speakers on a wide range of topics, including current events, the arts, politics, and history.

For a small fee, participants can get a student ID card at SFSU, which allows them access to the university library and recreational facilities. Sixty Plus sponsors several small-group activities, tours including day and overnight trips, discount theater tickets, and social gatherings. The annual membership fee is \$75. For more information and a membership application, call Eileen Ward at 415-566-9347.

## Volunteer at Botanical Garden

Share a love of the outdoors with others by volunteering with the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society. Volunteers are needed to lead garden tours at Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, and a 12-week training session begins Sept. 16. No previous horticultural experience is required—just an interest in learning some basic botany and an eagerness to share that information with others. Participants will learn about ecology, botany, horticulture, and biodiversity, as well as the special features of the Botanical Garden's collections.

New volunteers are likely to meet others from Noe Valley, says Botanical Garden Society representative Genevieve Antaky. "There are many plant-oriented folks in that neighborhood, as evidenced by their many beautiful private gardens, and many of those people have found their way to us over the years," she says.

Trainings take place at the Botanical Garden at Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays from Sept. 16 through Dec. 9, excluding Thanksgiving weekend.

Participants must make a two-year commitment and be willing to work with people of all ages and backgrounds. There is an \$85 fee for the training, but some scholarships are available. Preregistration is required. For more information, call 415-661-1316, ext. 312, or visit [www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org).

## Free Exhibit Reflects on Terror

Beginning on the fifth anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, Intersection for the Arts presents an art exhibit about fear. The exhibit, titled "Terror?," runs Monday, Sept. 11, through Saturday, Nov. 11. The free opening reception takes place on Sept. 11 at 6 p.m.

"Terror?" is an interdisciplinary project investigating how people experience fear and how it affects individual lives. The exhibit includes works on paper from all over the world. Organizers hope the event will provide a personal and collective response to one of the most pressing issues of our times.

Intersection for the Arts is also planning a related film screening, readings, and public discussions and performance. Intersection is located at 446 Valencia Street near 16th Street. Visit [www.theintersection.org](http://www.theintersection.org) for more information about the programs. The exhibit is free and the gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday from noon until 5 p.m. and Tuesdays by appointment.

## HOW TO CONTACT the Noe Valley Voice

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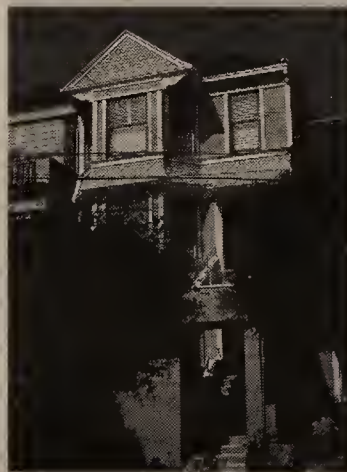


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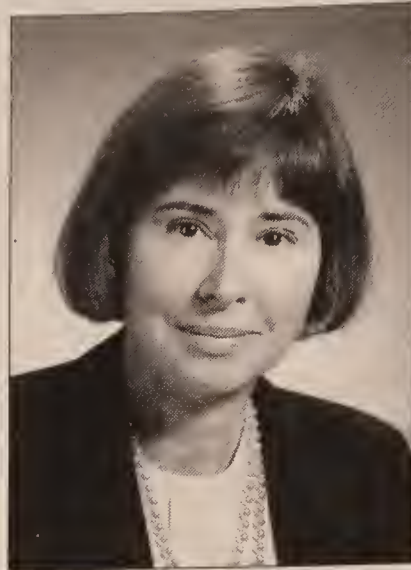
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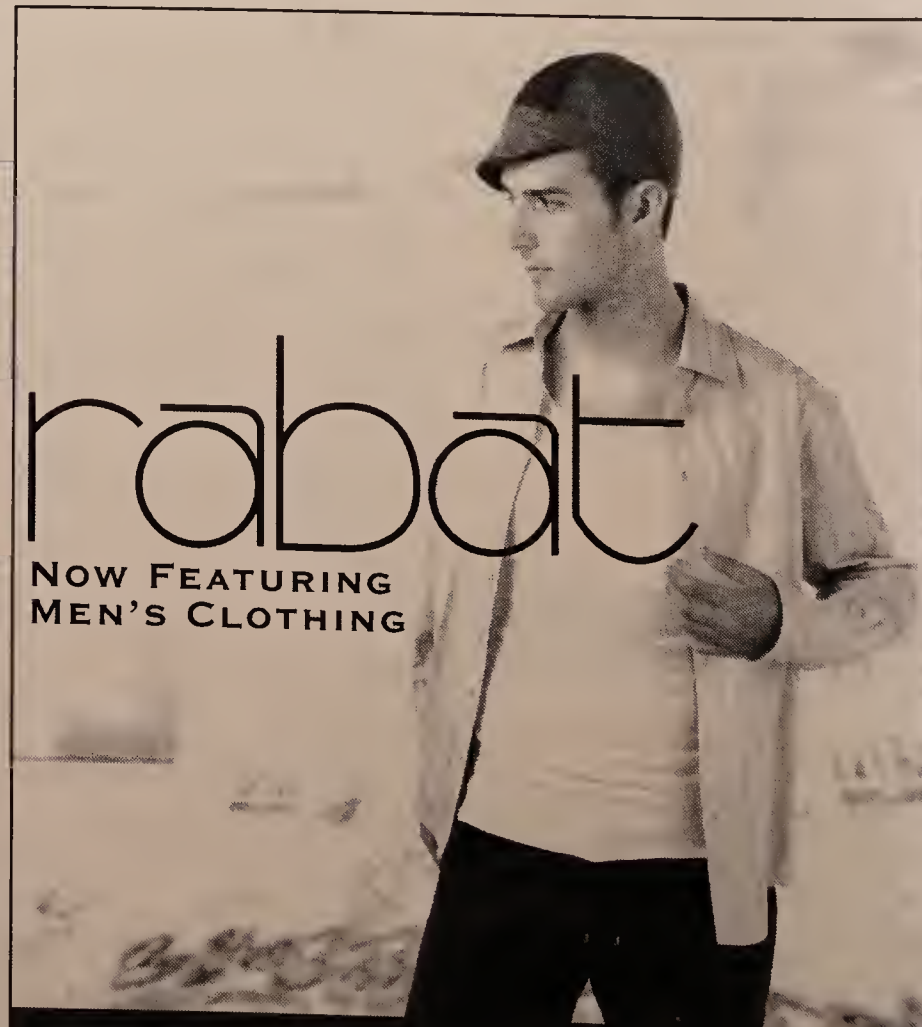
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# STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a “California/French” bistro on Church Street and a submarine sandwich shop (with ice cream) on 24th Street.

## BISTRO 1689

1689 Church Street (near 29th Street)  
415-550-8298

[www.bistro1689.com](http://www.bistro1689.com)

Benny Cheung knew what he was doing when he chose 1689 Church Street near 29th Street as the location for his new restaurant, Bistro 1689. “It’s such a nice neighborhood,” he says enthusiastically, “and we have a lot of unique restaurants on 24th Street. Now this area [the Church Street corridor] is developing too, with new restaurants and changes in management. It’s booming.”

Cheung, who lives in the same block as his restaurant but who hails from Hayward and San Jose, is utterly charmed by Noe Valley. “The J-Church goes right downtown, and it’s close to everything,” he says.

He hopes Bistro 1689, which offers what he calls “refined rustic California/French cuisine with an emphasis on the flavors of southwest France,” will be a pleasing addition.

For starters, he recommends the heirloom tomato salad with grilled peaches, basil, balsamic vinegar, and extra-virgin olive oil, for \$8. “Everybody loves it,” he says. Among the other enticements on the menu, created by Chef Scott Drozd, are the Niman Ranch braised short ribs, with rosemary spaetzle, swiss chard, and green bean salad (\$20); grilled lamb chops with potatoes, lemon thyme, and caramelized fennel (\$24); and duck breast with pea tendrils and shallots (\$20).

“People love the lavender honey chicken, too,” Cheung notes. “We serve at least 10 a night.”

The apple fritter with a Cointreau chestnut milkshake (\$7) is a popular choice for dessert, with the chestnut flavor providing a balance between sweet and savory, says Cheung. “People like to take it home.”

Prices range from moderate to indulgent. Appetizers cost \$5 to \$16, entrees start at \$17, and dessert prices run from \$6 to \$14. The wines are in the more-affordable category, and include an array of California, French, Spanish, and Italian choices. Glasses range from \$5 to \$7. The least expensive bottle is a Spanish sparkler cava for \$19. At the high end, the Chateaufort Du Pape, E. Guigal 2001, sells for \$65.



Bistro 1689, which features a blend of French and California cuisine, is the creation of owner Benny Cheung (left) and chef Scott Drozd.

There is also a fixed-price menu, served daily from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For \$30, patrons can enjoy soup, an appetizer, a choice of three entrees, dessert, and coffee or tea.

Before he unveiled his restaurant on July 12, Cheung spent six months giving the space, which formerly housed a Chinese restaurant, a “major makeover. Everything is brand new—from the floor to the ceiling to the bathroom,” he says.

The new interior displays the shimmering work of modern pop artist René Garcia Jr., who works in glitter and bright colors. Wooden chairs and tables, gold-toned walls adorned with mirrors, and a blue ceiling complete the sleek look.

By opening a restaurant, Cheung is following a family tradition—his folks own a restaurant in Hong Kong. When asked if he has another job, Cheung laughs. “I’m the full-time owner, and also the bartender and the handyman,” he says. “I couldn’t possibly have another job.”

Bistro 1689 is open from 5:30 until 9:30 p.m., on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays; hours extend until 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The restaurant is closed on Mondays.

—Erin O’Briant

## SUBS INC.

1300 Castro Street at 24th Street  
415-648-4256

In July, a sandwich shop called Subs Inc. replaced Isabella’s Dessert and Ice Cream Café, which had held fast to the corner of Castro and 24th streets for four years. Owner Rami Balat says he had been looking for a restaurant to open, and was thrilled when a friend pointed out that Isabella’s was for sale.

“It’s a great corner location with lots of window space and foot traffic. I was excited by the challenge of turning the place around and offering something new to the community,” says Balat.

To give the café’s narrow space a new look, Balat, 25, shortened the existing counter, put in bar stools, replaced the tile floor with bamboo, and applied fresh paint to the walls. The front of the small cafe is now covered in a bold “macaw yellow,” while the back room is painted a mint green.

As for the food, the name says it all. “It was important that I find a name that summarized everything I do in the simplest way possible, so I felt just simply calling the place Subs Inc. was appropriate,” Balat says. His logo boasts: “The Best Subs in Town.”

Customers have a wide variety of submarine sandwiches to choose from, available on 6-inch or 9-inch sweet white bread rolls. Standouts include Balat’s favorite, the Godfather—turkey, pastrami, and corned beef (\$6.50 or \$7.50)—and the San Franciscan, composed of roast beef and turkey (\$5.99 or \$6.99). There’s also a tangy tuna fish sandwich, made with premium yellowfin, mustard and mayonnaise.

For sides, look for Dirty Potato Chips, a gourmet brand, and potato and macaroni salads. Drinks include fountain sodas, as well as bottles of Orangina, Snapple, and Stewart’s sodas. Balat hopes to add some soups in the future. “We’re starting off slowly,” he says, “not trying to go crazy in the beginning.”

But what about ice cream? For decades, from Bud’s Ice Cream to Rory’s Twisted Scoop to Isabella’s, the corner shop has been a sure thing for cone-seekers. Well, fear not—Subs Inc. also carries local favorite Mitchell’s Ice Cream. There are 16 flavors on hand, and Balat



Subs Inc. owner Rami Balat (right) and employee Nael Khalil invite customers to try “the best subs in town.”

Photos by Pamela Gerard

assures Noe Valleyans that they’re the real deal. Some of the more popular flavors include mint chip, Oreo cookie, caramel praline, dulce de leche, macapuno (sweet coconut), and chocolate caramel crackle. Balat says he will also rotate in other flavors like mango, cantaloupe, and grasshopper pie (a decadent blend of mint, fudge, Oreo cookie, and chocolate chips).

Prices run \$2.25 for a kid’s scoop and \$2.75 for a single. Sundaes are \$4.95, and customers can take home pints and quarts.

Balat’s parents own Noe Valley Deli on 24th and Noe streets, and he continues to help them out there. A graduate of Rioridan High School and University of San Francisco, Balat has close ties to Noe Valley, and says, “I was practically raised here.”

He hopes Subs Inc. will in turn become a haunt for neighborhood youth. “I’ve always felt Noe Valley needed a place that children, teenagers, and young adults can call their own, so while my place caters to everyone, I want those groups to call Subs Inc. ‘my Noe Valley hangout.’”

Subs Inc. is open every day from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

—Olivia Boler



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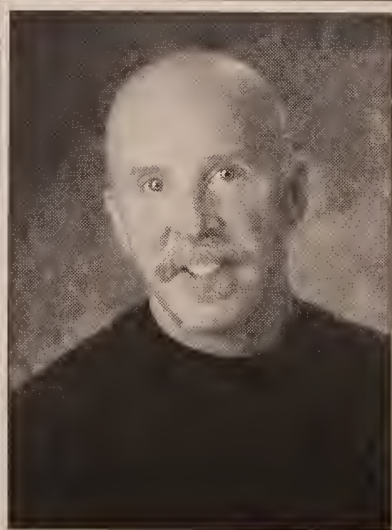
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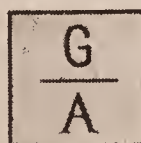
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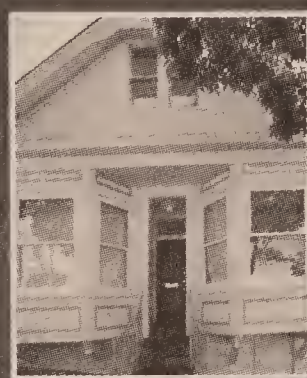
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**Sept. 1-27:** Sharon Art Studio in Golden Gate Park offers ART CLASSES for youth and adults beginning Sept. 28. To register for fall classes call 753-7004 or visit [sharonartstudio.org](http://sharonartstudio.org).

**Sept. 1-28:** "Viva Pedro" screens eight PEDRO ALMODÓVAR films, with each program running one week: *A Woman on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (9/1), *All About My Mother/Talk to Her/Flower of My Secret* (9/8), *Live Flesh/Law of Desire/Bad Education* (9/15), *Malador* (9/22). Castro Theater, 429 Castro St. Call 621-6120 for show times.

**Sept. 1-29:** The Mission Cultural Center hosts an art exhibit, "ENCUENTROS: Exploring the Theme of Identity." Tues.-Sat., 10 am.-5 pm. 2868 Mission St. 643-5001.

**Sept. 1-30:** The NOE STROLLS "play-group on wheels" departs Holey Bagel on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 am. 3872 24th St. [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

**Sept. 1-30:** City Guides gives free WALKING TOURS, including "1906—Phoenix Rising" (1st & 3rd Wednesdays & 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays), 1 pm. Meet at the iron gates at Franklin & Fulton. 557-4266; [www.cityguides.org](http://www.cityguides.org).

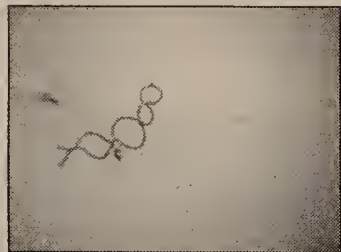
**Sept. 1-30:** Chris Sequeira leads classes in TAI CHI. Mon. & Tues., 6 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. For the location of 10:15 am Wed. & Fri. classes, call 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

**Sept. 1-30:** A variety of bands play Afro-Cuban salsa, Latin funk, samba, hip-hop, and reggae nightly at the ELBO ROOM. 9 pm. 647 Valencia St. 552-7788; [www.elbo.com](http://www.elbo.com).

**Sept. 1-30:** The Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays, 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-1030.

**Sept. 1-30:** After-school ART CLASSES at Precita Eyes Mural Arts include mask, costume, and jewelry creation for kids ages 5 to 10. Tues. & Thurs., 3:30-5:30 pm. 348 Precita Ave. 285-2311.

**Sept. 1-30:** Precita Eyes leads MISSION TRAIL MURAL WALKS at 11 am and 1:30 pm Saturdays and Sundays in September. Meet at Café Venice, 3325 24th St., for 11 am tours on Saturdays. Meet at 2981 24th St. at Harrison for all other tours. 285-2287.



"Beachtwisted" is a photo by Noe Valley resident Angelika Schilli, which will be part of the Calumet Gallery's "All Over the Map" show Sept. 16-30.

**Sept. 1-Oct. 7:** Sixteen photographers exhibit their work in "Light & Motion," a PHOTOGRAPHY show at Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts. Reception Sept. 1, 7-9 pm. 2868 Mission; [www.missionculturalcenter.org](http://www.missionculturalcenter.org).

**Sept. 2 & 16:** Bring a blanket and a picnic dinner to Bernal Heights' OUTDOOR CINEMA for free screenings by local filmmakers. Sept. 2 at Bernal Heights Park; Sept. 16 at Bernal Play-ground. 7-10 pm. 641-8417; [www.bhoutdoorcine.org](http://www.bhoutdoorcine.org).

**Sept. 2-24:** Free SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK performs *The Tempest*. Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun. and Labor Day, 2:30 pm. The Lawn at the Presidio Post Parade Ground. 865-4434; [www.sfsakes.org](http://www.sfsakes.org).

**Sept. 3:** Rocket Dog Rescue has PUPS who need homes. Come see them from noon to 4 pm in front of Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

**Sept. 3 & 17:** The S.F. Botanical Garden offers a free FAMILY WALK at 11 am, preceded by story time at 10:30 am. Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue & Lincoln Way. 661-1316.

**Sept. 4 & 6:** Theater 39 screens Judy Irving's award-winning DOCUMENTARY *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*. 2 pm. Pier 39, Beach & Embarcadero. 433-3939.

**Sept. 4:** Learn to SALSA DANCE in classes at the Pick Ballroom. 7:00-8:30 pm. 380 18th Ave. 877-507-3403; [www.DanceSF.com](http://www.DanceSF.com).

**Sept. 5:** The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3050.

**Sept. 5, 12 & 19:** Librarians from the Noe Valley Library present LAPSITS for babies and toddlers at 10:15 am, and preschool STORY TIME at 11 am on Tuesdays. Bethany UMC, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

**Sept 5-24:** The Kadampa Buddhist Temple offers introductory BUDDHIST MEDITATION classes. Tues., 7-8:30 pm; Sun., 10-11:30 am. 3324 17th St. 503-1187.

**Sept. 6:** Author Samantha King discusses her book *Pink Ribbons, Inc.: BREAST CANCER and the Politics of Philanthropy*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**Sept. 6-17:** The San Francisco FRINGE FESTIVAL includes non-juried and uncensored experimental theater pieces at the Exit Theater and other downtown venues. For a schedule: [www.sffringe.org](http://www.sffringe.org).

**Sept. 6-27:** Check out some reading material at the S.F. Library's BOOK-MOBILE, parked at 665 Elizabeth St., between Castro and Diamond. Mon. & Wed., 10:30 am-1 pm. 557-4353.

**Sept. 7:** Bring your (flat) dancing shoes to SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING's free introductory party, with live music. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.

**Sept. 7-9:** COUNTERPULSE Artists in Residence presents "Continuing Education" and "Fish and Chips," new performances by EmSpace Dance and Eat Cake Productions. 8 pm. 1310 Mission St. 435-7552; [www.counterpulse.org](http://www.counterpulse.org).

**Sept. 9:** Watch maritime history come to life at the FESTIVAL OF THE SEA, a free funfest of music, storytelling, kids' activities, maritime crafts, and ship tours. 10 am-5 pm. San Francisco Maritime Park, Hyde Street Pier. 561-7123.

**Sept. 9:** The third annual Noe Valley MUSIC IN THE PARK features live music by the bands Playdate, the Jakes, and the San Francisco School of Rock, a jumpy tent, and refreshments, to benefit renovation of the park. 11 am-3 pm. Noe Courts Park, 24th & Douglass. For info, call 699-5435 or e-mail Andrew Keeler at [ak@keelerkom.com](mailto:ak@keelerkom.com).

**Sept. 9:** The free eighth annual POWER TO THE PEACEFUL FESTIVAL features a concert in Golden Gate Park's Speedway Meadows. 11 am-5 pm. 865-2170; [www.powertothepeaceful.org](http://www.powertothepeaceful.org).

**Sept. 9:** Sample a variety of local microbrewed beer at the third annual BREWS ON THE BAY. Noon-4:30 pm. S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien, Pier 45, Fisherman's Wharf. For tickets call 398-2678; [www.sfbrewersguild.org](http://www.sfbrewersguild.org).

**Sept 9:** Hitchcock's thriller *The Birds* will be shown outdoors at Union Square, as part of the PARK FILM series sponsored by the S.F. Neighborhood Theater Foundation. 8 pm. [www.sfnf.org](http://www.sfnf.org).

**Sept. 9 & 10:** The San Francisco ZINEFEST features over 60 small press vendors and workshops for independent publishers. 10 am-5 pm. CELLspace, 2050 Bryant St. [www.szinefest.com](http://www.szinefest.com).

**Sept. 9 & 19:** Authors and literacy advocates Rosemary Wells and Jim Trelease will discuss the importance of READING to children. Wells will lecture on Sept. 9 at 11 am; Trelease at 6:30 pm on Sept. 19. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4277.

**Sept. 10:** Animal Care and Control offers a RABIES VACCINE Clinic from 10 am to 1 pm. 1200 15th Street. 554-6364.

**Sept. 10:** San Francisco OPERA IN THE PARK features operatic excerpts and arias performed by artists in current productions. 1:30 pm. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. [www.sfopera.com](http://www.sfopera.com).

**Sept. 10:** PFLAG Support Group holds a discussion about the National AIDS Memorial Grove, led by Jack Porter. 2-4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

**Sept. 10:** "BAR-BE-QUE BY THE BAY!" is a benefit for Lyon Martin Women's Health Services. 2-6 pm. Log Cabin in the Presidio (Building 1299). 901-7104.

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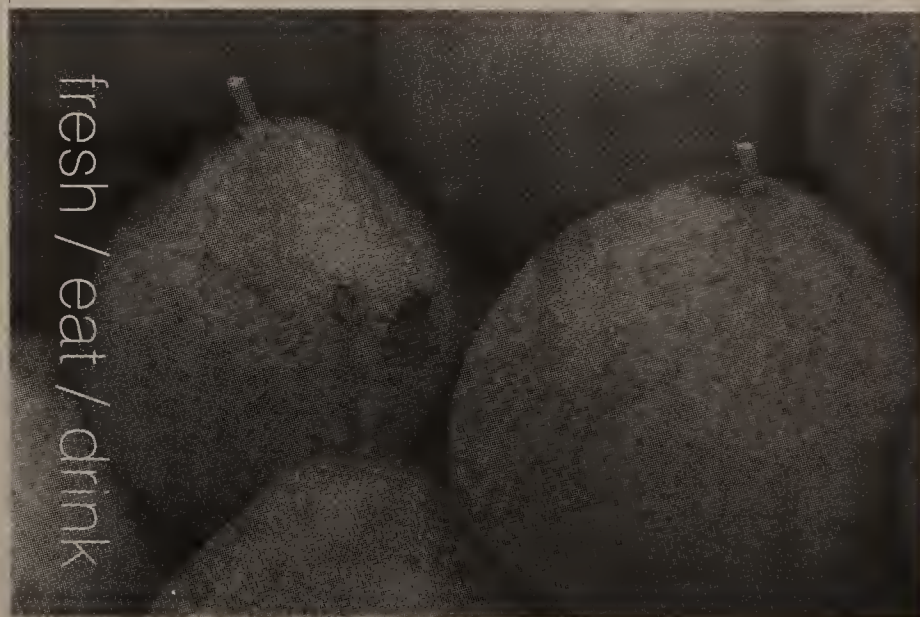
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# CALENDAR



**Sept. 11:** IN MEMORIAM 9/11, sponsored by the Odd Mondays Series, features music, meditation, and inspirational remarks, hosted by Rev. Keenan Kelsey of the Noe Valley Ministry, with Iftekhar Hai of the Islamic Society and Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller of Temple Sherith Israel. 7 pm program at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; 5:30 pm no-host supper at Noe Valley Pizza, 24th & Sanchez. 282-0669.

**Sept. 11-Nov. 11:** "TERROR?" is an exhibition of works on paper from around the world, addressing how fear affects our lives. Opening reception Sept. 11, 6 pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St. [www.terror@theintersection.org](http://www.terror@theintersection.org).

**Sept. 13:** The 10th ANNIVERSARY GALA benefit for the San Francisco Neighborhood Parks Council features an appearance by Mayor Gavin Newsom. 6-9 pm. Mountain Lake Park. For tickets: 821-9693; [npc@cbsanfrancisco.com](mailto:npc@cbsanfrancisco.com).

**Sept. 13:** Award-winning scientist/environmentalist JAMES LOVELOCK discusses his latest book, *The Revenge of Gaia*. 8 pm. Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St. 321-8000.

**Sept. 14:** St. Luke's Hospital holds a VOLUNTEER orientation the second Thursday of the month. 3-5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538.

**Sept. 15, 16 & 17:** COMPANY MECANIQUE dance theater performs "Take Me With You." Fri.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Dance Mission, 3316 24th St. 273-4633.

**Sept. 15, 16 & 17:** Eleven teams of dancers, composers, and musicians perform in *Collaboration! DANCE & MUSIC*. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 345-7575.



Company Mécanique Dance Theater presents "Take Me With You" at Dance Mission Theater Sept. 15-17. Photo of Julie Sheetz and Mair Culbreth by Andy Mogg.

**Sept. 16:** The San Francisco Center for the Book hosts the third annual Roadworks, Steamroller Prints STREET FAIR. 10 am-4 pm. De Haro between 16th & 17th. 565-0545.

**Sept. 16:** Bring that fabulous voice and those tappin' toes to Beach Blanket Babylon AUDITIONS. Noon. Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon Blvd. (Green St.). [Auditions@beachblanketbabylon.com](mailto:Auditions@beachblanketbabylon.com).

**Sept. 16-30:** The Bay Area Photographers Collective (BAPC) hosts a GALLERY OPENING and exhibit called "All Over the Map," featuring works by 21 photographers including Noe Valley's Angelika Schilli. 2-4 pm. Calumet Gallery, 2001 Bryant St. 643-9275.

**Sept. 16:** "The Best Is Yet to Come," San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band Director Jadine Louie's FAREWELL CONCERT, features music by the band, special guests, and home movies. 8 pm. Everett Middle School Auditorium, 450 Church St. 255-1355.

**Sept. 16 & 30:** Try your hand at BOOKMAKING at the Randall Museum, 1-4 pm Sept. 16. Also make your own MINI SPACE SHUTTLE that really flies, 1-4 pm Sept. 30. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; [www.randallmuseum.org](http://www.randallmuseum.org).

**Sept. 16-30:** The California Academy of Sciences exhibits "DINOSAURS: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries." 875 Howard St. 321-8000.

**Sept. 18:** Church Street merchants gather for a meeting of their new association CHURCH STREET BUSINESS. 6:30 p.m. Fattoush Restaurant, 1361 Church St. Contact Paula Benton at [bentonp@sprynet.com](mailto:bentonp@sprynet.com).

**Sept. 20:** Those who wish to care for children in their home are invited to a free CHILDCARE LICENSING orientation at the Children's Council. Orientation, 9-11:30 am; workshop, 12:30-3:30 pm. 445 Church St. 343-3333.

**Sept. 20:** The San Francisco AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS' Lecture Series features "Catching Stardust," with guest speaker Scott Sandford from NASA's Ames Research Center. 8 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**Sept. 21:** The Friends of Noe Valley hosts a DISCUSSION, "What's Wrong with Noe Valley?" 7:30 pm, St. Philip's Church Parish Hall, Diamond between 24th & Elizabeth. E-mail Richard May, [rambooks@pacbell.net](mailto:rambooks@pacbell.net).

**Sept. 21:** BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES for couples. Forest Hill

Christian Church, 250 Laguna Honda Blvd. For reservations, 661-2746.

**Sept. 22 & 24:** Vocal group CHANTICLEER performs "Quotations," new choral music by contemporary composers. Terra Art Gallery, 511 Harrison St. Fri., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. 252-8589.

**Sept. 23:** A treasure and RUMMAGE SALE benefiting Bethany United Methodist Church runs from 8 am to 1 pm. 1268 Sanchez Street. 647-8393.

**Sept. 24:** The FOLSOM STREET FAIR features arts and crafts, refreshments, live entertainment, dance parties. [www.folsomstreetfair.com](http://www.folsomstreetfair.com).

**Sept. 24:** Explore the secret spots of Golden Gate Park after dark on "NIGHT RIDE: The Park in the Dark." 7 pm. Meet at the Panhandle Statue at Fell and Baker. [www.sfbike.org/nightrides](http://www.sfbike.org/nightrides).

**Sept. 25:** Ten-week after-school classes in theater, music, dance and stagecraft begin at MARSH YOUTH THEATER. 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750; [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

**Sept. 26:** Learn about SMALL CLAIMS court at a free advice clinic offered by New College School of Law. 10 am. Civic Center Courthouse, 400 McAllister St. 241-1300.

**Sept. 27:** The Noe Valley MERCHANTS and Professionals Association convenes at 9 am at the Bank of America on 24th. [teresa@wardrobe911.com](mailto:teresa@wardrobe911.com).

**Sept. 27:** The kids are welcome at Peekabootique's PARENTS' NIGHT, featuring music and drinks. 5:30-8:30 pm. 1306 Castro St. 641-6192.

**Sept. 28:** The UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS meets at 7:30 pm on the third floor of the 30th Street Senior Center. 225 30th St. 285-0473.

**Sept. 28-Oct. 1:** Stock your library at the 42nd annual BIG BOOK SALE, to benefit the San Francisco Public Library. Thurs.-Sat., 10 am-8 pm.; Sun., 10 am-6 pm. Festival Pavilion at Fort Mason Center. 626-7500.

**Sept. 29:** City College offers a free weekly older adults support group, this week featuring the video "ARTHRITIS: A Natural Approach." 9:30 am-noon. The Sequoias, 1501 Post St. 551-1122.

**Sept. 30:** Get your garden ready for the coming seasons at a FALL GARDENING primer. 10 am-noon. Garden for the Environment, Seventh Avenue & Lawton. 731-5627

**Sept. 30:** Come hear Tango No. 9, with the TANGO DANCING of Christy Coté, Chelsea Eng & Moti Buchboot. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; [www.noevalley-musicseries.com](http://www.noevalley-musicseries.com).

**Sept. 30:** Bring a blanket, a chair, and your last nerve to the "Film in the Fog" screening of the classic horror film *Them!* SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. Main Post Theater, The Presidio, 99 Moraga Ave. 561-5500; [www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov).

## Read October

If all goes as planned, the next issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* will hit Noe Valley doorsteps by Oct. 1. The deadline for your calendar items is **Sept. 15**. Send e-mails to [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com). Or you may write *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Noe Valley events take priority, but we try to squeeze in as many other nuggets as possible.

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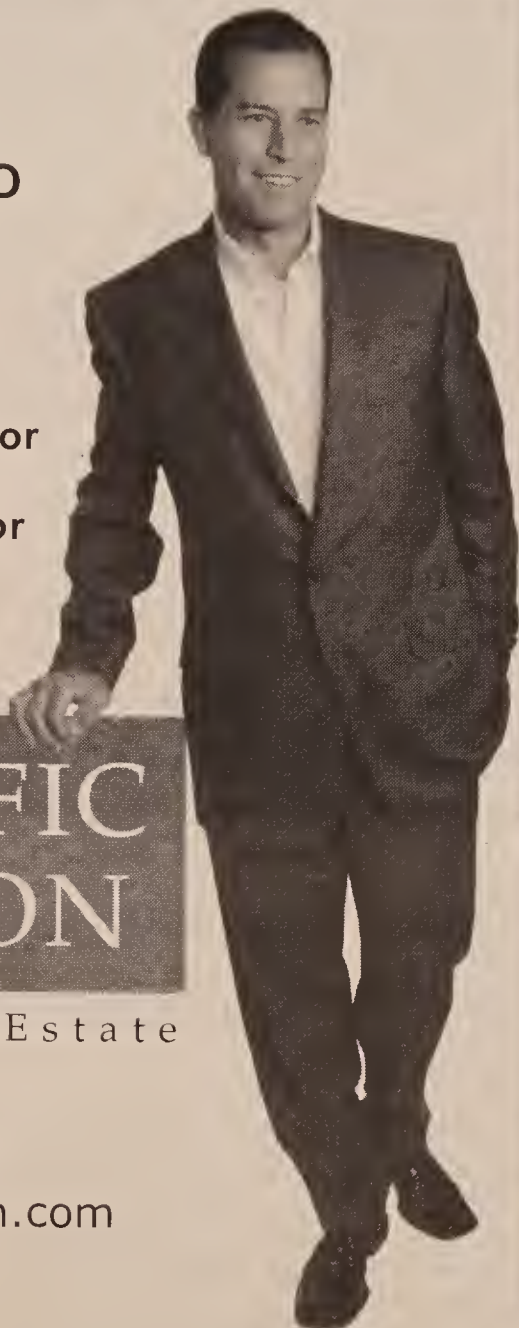
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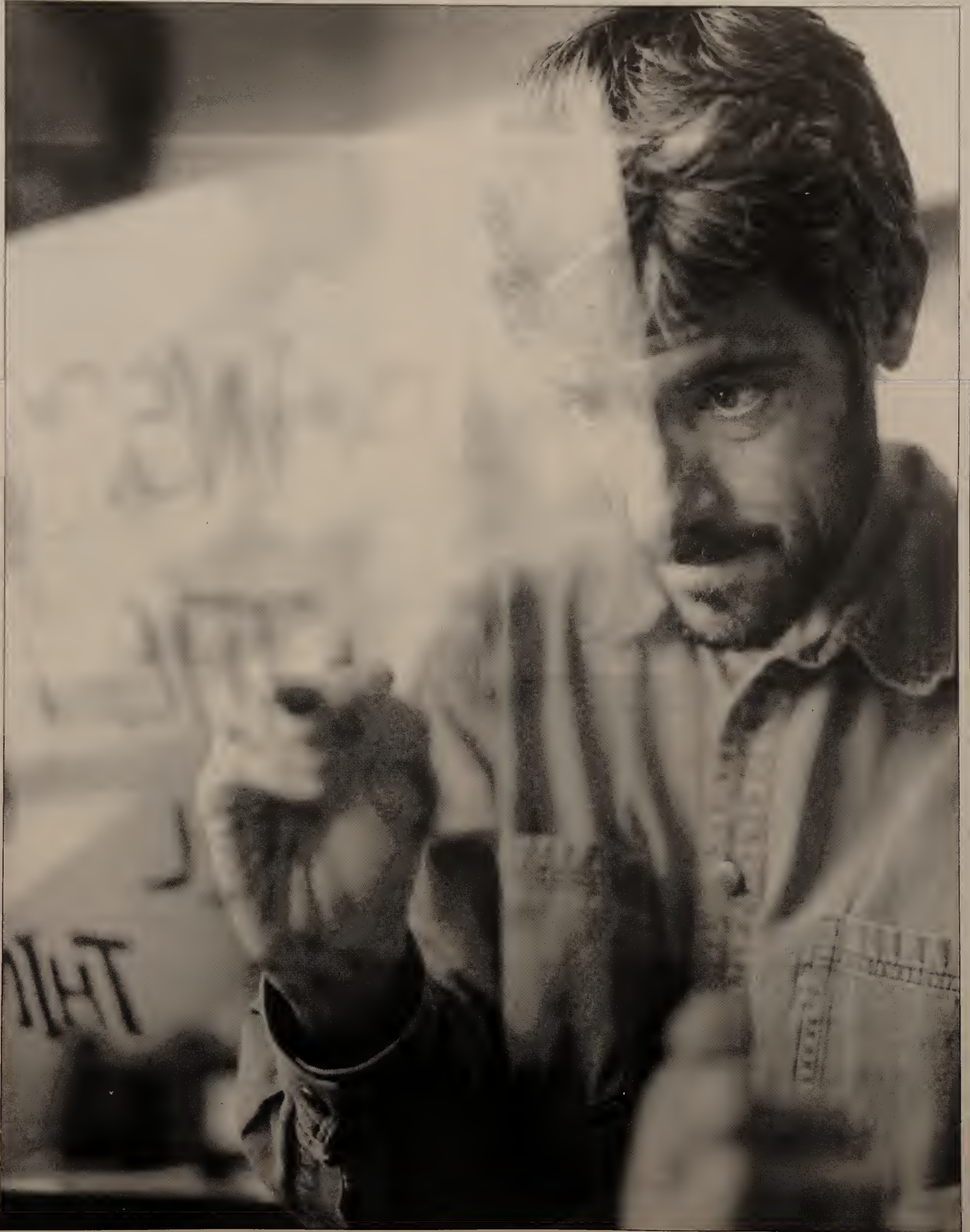
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# Noe Valley Faces



joe@JaffoOrangePhoto.com

Like a sculptor with a chisel, **Walker Brents III** writes his poetry in longhand, letter by letter, word by word. "Language is the gift of the gods," he says. "Shaping language to thought is the work of human beings." He has stacks of black notebooks crammed with his thoughts, dreams, and journal entries. He enjoys the mischievous interplay between illusion and reality, what he calls "the right and left hands of being."

Originally from Texas, Brents came to the Bay Area in 1983 and settled in Noe Valley in 1991. He met his wife Joyce within a week of moving to San Francisco, while working for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. He is 47 and currently living on 28th Street.

There are many beneficiaries of Brents' scribbles on life, truth, and beauty. He teaches and tells stories to the students at Berkwood Hedge, a private K-5 school in Berkeley. At the Asian Art Museum, Brents performs "poetic improvisations"—the retelling of myths and stories from Hindu, Chinese, and Arabic cultures. He also gives monthly readings and lectures at Bird & Beckett Books & Records in Glen Park.

A few lines from his poem "Mercy's Mirror": *If mercy is a mirror, tiger tiger burning bright, / for every tooth and every claw there corresponds a painted stripe and we can read such signs out of depths of night and day, / for mercy is a mirror and a lamp amidst our clay.*

**Photo by Najib Joe Hakim**



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# High Holidays 5767

## ROSH HASHANAH

Friday, Sept. 22, 2006 · 7:30 pm – Ma'ariv (ticket required)

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2006

9:30 am – Shacharit & Musaf

2:00 pm – Tashlich picnic – Crissy Field

3:00 pm – Tashlich service – Crissy Field

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2006

9:30 am – Shacharit & Musaf – at Sha'ar Zahav (290 Dolores)

## YOM KIPPUR

Sunday, Oct. 1, 2006 · 7:30 pm – Kol Nidre (ticket required)

Monday, Oct. 2, 2006

9:30 am – Shacharit & Musaf

3:30 pm – Mincha

4:30 pm – Reading of Names

5:45 pm – Yizkor & Neilah (ticket required)

All services are held at the Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness  
(at McAllister) unless otherwise noted.



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Fri. Sept. 22 - 6:45pm

(Dinner 8:00pm \$25 must RSVP)

Sat. Sept. 23 - 10am & 7pm

Sun. Sept. 24 - 10am

Shofar (Sunday) - 11:30am

#### YOM KIPPUR

Sun. Oct. 1 Kol Nidrai - 6:45pm

(Fast starts - 6:35pm)

Monday Oct. 2 - 10:00am

Yizkor memorial Service 12:15

Neilah closing service 5:00pm

Break-fast & Fast ends at 7:30pm

For location and more information please call 415-821-7046 or  
Email [rabbi@chabadnoevalley.org](mailto:rabbi@chabadnoevalley.org) [www.chabadnoevalley.org](http://www.chabadnoevalley.org)

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#### Erev Rosh Ha-Shanah

Friday September 22nd, 8:00pm

#### Rosh Ha-Shanah, First Day

Saturday, September 23rd, 8:30am Youth Services 10:00am

#### Rosh Ha-Shanah, Second Day

Sunday, September 24th, 8:30am Youth Services 10:00am  
Then Tashlikh Services on the beach (just a short walk away)

#### Kol Nidre

Sunday October 1st, 6:30pm

#### Yom Kippur

Monday, October 2nd, 9:00am Youth Services 11:00am  
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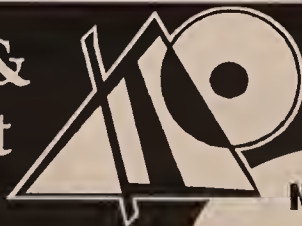
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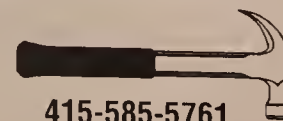
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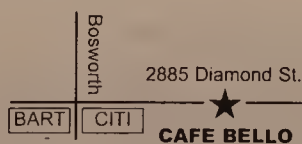
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## Fourth Woman Pastor Leads a Revitalized Bethany Church

By Lee Swain

The United Methodist Church gave women full clergy rights 50 years ago. Bethany United Methodist Church, at Clipper and Sanchez streets, has recently welcomed the fourth woman pastor in its history.

She is the Rev. Lauren Chaffee, a single mom who just moved into Noe Valley with her 20-year-old son, Justin. Expect to see her walking her two dogs around the neighborhood.

And expect to see Bethany UMC stay in Noe Valley. Bethany, which was granted United Methodist property in the Castro nine years ago and was intending to build there, is now set on staying where it is. The church has already contracted with an architect, John Goldman, to start work on renovation plans. Goldman is known for designing inviting urban worship spaces, including St. Gregory's Church in Potrero Hill and Most Holy Redeemer Church in the Castro.

Bethany, under the leadership of Rev. Chaffee, intends to concentrate more on reaching out to Noe Valley's families. The congregation has lately had a new wave of infants and children to complement its wide diversity of adults.

Chaffee's pastorate at Bethany immediately succeeds two one-year pastorates that followed the 12-year appointment of the Rev. Karen Oliveto, now an associate dean at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Previously, the church was served well by the Rev. Kim Smith, now at Trinity UMC in Berkeley. The Rev. Christine Shiber, now at the First UMC in Pacific Grove, was the first woman pastor in 1981.

Rev. Chaffee entered full-time ministry in 1980, at age 25, serving two small churches in a rural community outside of Pittsburgh, Pa. Although that was more than two decades after the United Methodist Church granted full clergy rights to women, Chaffee recalls that she experienced both "explicit and subtle forms of exclusion and abuse." There were anonymous notes sent to her home and left on her windshield, some citing biblical reasons why women should not be ordained. "In one of my churches, a petition was circulated within the first six months of my arrival, and signed by people who had not stepped foot in the church in years, but were recruited to sign by a few very opinionated individuals who wanted me out," Chaffee says. "When I became a single mom just after my son's second birthday, the demands of parenting him became another thing for parishioners to object to."

In 1993, Chaffee felt so discouraged

with the church that she stepped back from her ministry. She came to San Francisco to pursue a graduate degree in Organizational Development at the California Institute of Integral Studies. Consulting would be a vocation where her gender was less likely to be a hurdle, and she would have more time for parenting, she reasoned. Eventually, as she developed consulting connections within the United Methodist Church in Northern California, she accepted an invitation to lead a congregation in Redwood City, and has continued to work as a pastor since that time. Although some of the anti-women attitudes have persisted—even in Bay Area churches—she believes the issues they raise may have made her a more effective leader.

"I know that the churches and people I served will never be the same, having had a single-mom-clergywoman for a pastor," she says. "I have a great deal of compassion for others who are excluded from society and the church on the basis of qualities and circumstances not of their own making." That resolve, she maintains, gives her ministry a strong social justice element, which is consistent with the history of Bethany.

Chaffee looks forward to supporting Bethany, as the church undergoes renovation and the congregation grows. She will be joined in designing new ministry programs by a new music director, Dave Scott. Scott is well known in the community as a teacher at Community Music Center and at the Berkeley Jazz School. He's also a member of the Glide Memorial Church band and a trumpet and keyboard player with Boz Scaggs.

For a calendar of music and other upcoming events, such as a Sept. 23 sidewalk Treasure Sale, go to Bethany's web site, [www.bethanysf.org](http://www.bethanysf.org), or call 415-647-8393. Chaffee says visitors are always warmly received at the Sunday morning service, beginning at 11 a.m. and followed by brunch.



Lauren Chaffee is not the only new face at Bethany this fall. The church's new pastor will be joined by new music director Dave Scott, who plays trumpet with Boz Scaggs.

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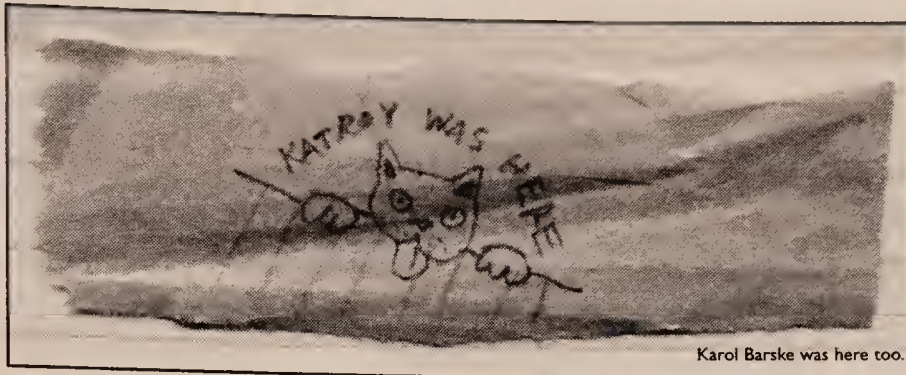
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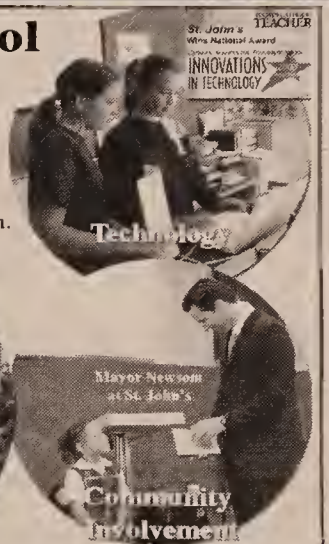
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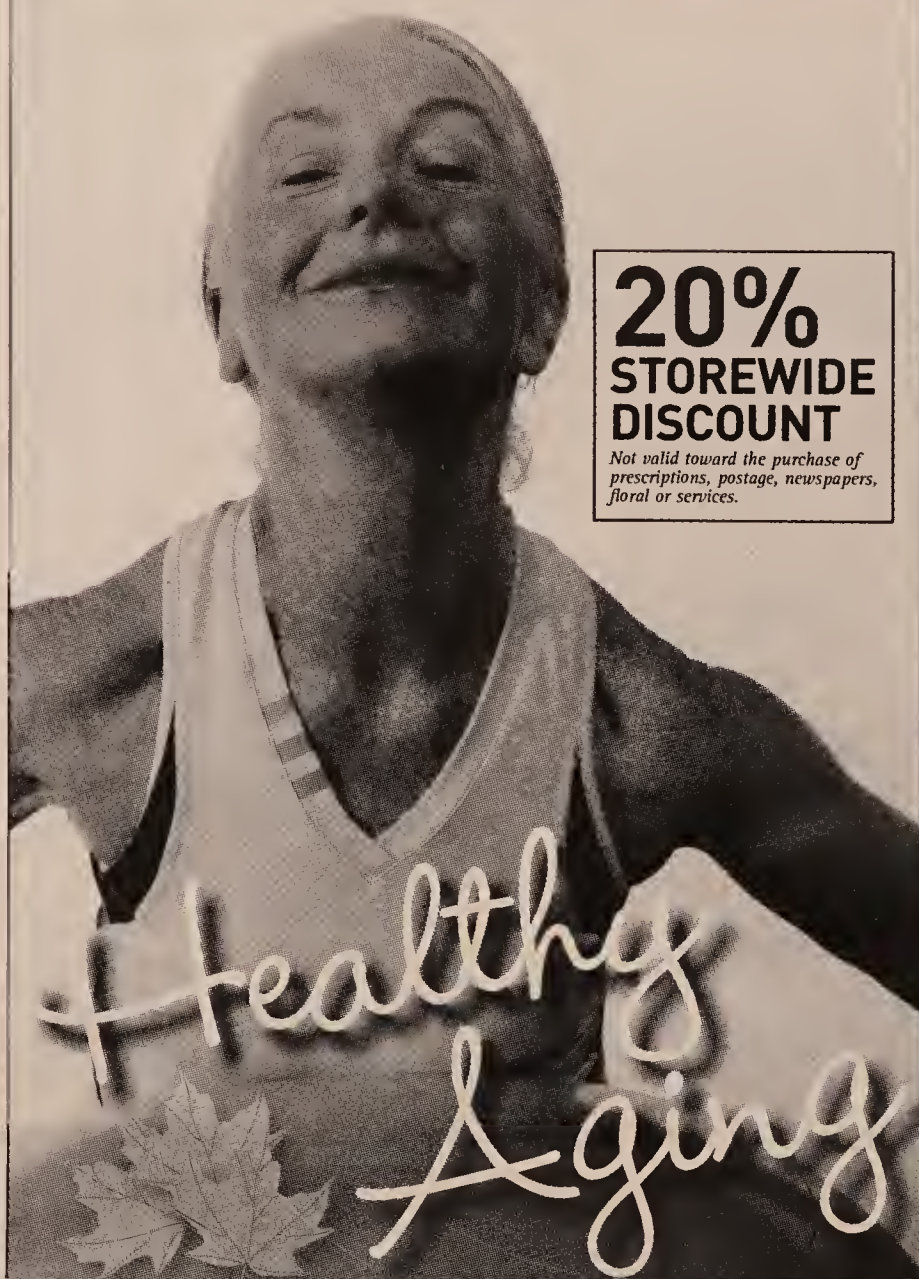
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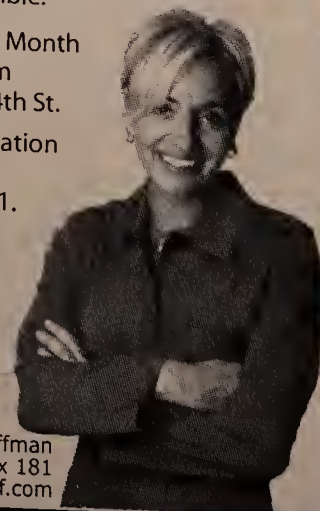
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Illustrated Reminiscences  
by Florence Holub

### Requiem for a Mustang

*In this essay, written for the Voice's December 1992 issue, Florence Holub tells how painful it was to give up the one and only car she ever owned.*

Up into my early 50s, I had breezed along through life without a thought of owning an automobile. One reason was that I didn't need to—because my man Leo provided me with transportation for the weekly shopping. But in 1974, at the age of 55, I realized how helpful a driving daughter would be for my 85-year-old father, who had lost his driver's license and was having trouble getting around on arthritic knees.

This led me to enroll in a driving school, which gave me the confidence to buy my first car.

That car was a used 1968 Ford Mustang, with deep red upholstery and a handsome off-white exterior—and it was love at first sight. The owner of the car was asking \$750 “as is,” and although the vehicle had already traveled 100,000 miles, I snapped it up and happily drove home.

In the following months, as numerous young men chased after me yelling that they wished to buy it, I realized that my car was somewhat of a collector's item. But it was not for sale...ever! I would just as soon have sold my children.

Of course, I did put a few dents in it before I learned to judge the proximity of a slab of cement, but that didn't discourage me. Whenever it boiled over or



refused to budge, I drove it or had it towed to the nearest gas station, usually Dan's on 24th Street, where my Mustang received tender loving care. I was there so often that we were on a first-name basis. They also got to know me at S & C Ford, where the parts man got replacements for whatever went on the blink. He sent all the way to Los Angeles just to obtain the matching red

armrest because, as he put it, “You take good care of your car.”

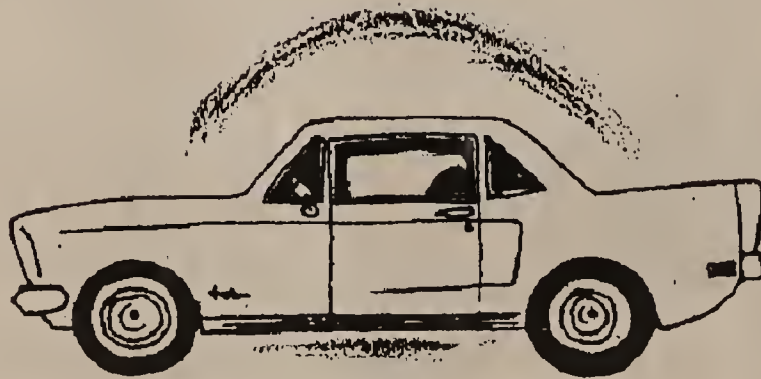
That was true. I didn't even allow anyone else to wash it.

But I did have a maintenance problem: Because we have no garage and must park on the street, people kept running into my fenders...honestly.

The first time, a delivery truck lost its brakes on our steep hill, slid backwards, and smashed into the rear end of my car, which was parked in front of our house. I heard the crash while sitting in the kitchen drinking my morning coffee. Fortunately, no one was hurt and the driver was insured.

The second time, a man who had just put air in his tires backed his van into my left front fender. He apologized profusely and paid for the repairs, though.

The third time, just a few years ago, a young woman making a right turn from the left lane rammed into my rear left fender, resulting in more body work and a paint job. While I was at it, I ordered a new bumper to replace the old one, which was beginning to show a trace of rust.



Automobiles lacking a garage are also vulnerable to thieves. The first time my car was broken into, they stole only the battery. I noticed it was missing when the ignition failed to respond. We bought a new one, along with a link chain that we used to lock the hood to the steel frame below, so no one could get inside.

The next episode occurred several years later. I looked out one morning to admire my beautiful Mustang, and it was gone! We called the police station, and they sent out an officer with papers to be filled out. The officer was not reassuring, however, so Leo (trying to think like a car thief) went out the front door, down the hill, and turned the corner. There he found my car, unharmed, at Hill and Church streets.

Leo surmised that the culprits had used a coat hanger to open the door, then coasted down the hill, planning to hot-wire the car, but were foiled by the

chain and lock, and so abandoned their attempt. When Leo got back, the policeman had not yet finished making his report.

We immediately removed the plungers on the doors, which had allowed those pilferers to break into the car with a coat hanger. And to discourage further break-ins, we installed a J-bar that locked the steering wheel to the brake pedal and was clearly visible to anyone with ulterior motives.

We were uncomfortably aware that this particular Ford model was popular among car thieves, but since we lacked a garage, we could only make sure that it was always parked in front under a bright light, and hope for the best.

But on Sept. 13 of this year [1992], when at daybreak I looked out to make sure my classic car was still there, I found only an empty space. After trembling for 30 minutes, I decided to accept my loss gracefully. I reminded myself that I no longer used it much and that automobile emissions were damaging the ozone

layer and the air we breathe—so why own a second car? Besides, it had served its original purpose for as long as my father lived.

We reported the theft to Mission Police Station, and the next day were informed that my Mustang had been found abandoned on Ellert Street—after suffering a major “strip.”

And that wasn't the only bad news. To add insult to injury, the city was charging us for towing and storage! Fortunately, we were given a waiver of the fee at the Hall of Justice, where we also got a release form. That enabled us to claim or dispose of the car, which was being stored at Pier 70 at the end of 22nd Street. There we waited until it was brought out from the huge metal building by a forklift and set down for us to examine.

The hood was slightly askew, so we could peer into the vast chasm beneath it. Every part—the engine, radiator,

transmission, and every piece of metal, hose, or wire—had been removed. The door locks and the J-bar lock had been reamed out with some kind of power tool, and the chrome trim on the outside (except, oddly enough, for the new chrome front bumper) had been completely stripped off.

We imagined that during the wee hours of that fateful night, the car was hoisted onto a flatbed truck, taken to a place where there was ample light and electrical power, and quickly disassembled. Then, with wheels and front bumper still intact, it was towed to a lonely street before daybreak.

As we stood at Pier 70 assessing the damage, a young man in a white jumpsuit expressed interest. He told us that his girlfriend had the same model Ford but with a battered body, and that she would be willing either to sell us the inner workings of her car or to buy what was left of our car, which was in excellent condition.

At that moment, however, we were unable to make a decision, so we walked up the incline, then looked back at the sea of battered jalopies (battered, all with the exception of one beautiful white Mustang). My car, in fact, with its shiny new bumper and the hood only slightly out of kilter, looked very much like a jewel in a junkyard.

I decided, finally, to part with my pride and joy. With no garage to guard against the same thing happening again, I just couldn't justify taking the risk. Early the next morning, I tearfully signed over the pink slip to the towing company, so that my Mustang could be auctioned off.

I would like to think that the man in the white jumpsuit has acquired the well-preserved body of my car, with which to replace the banged-up frame of his girlfriend's car, and also that somewhere a pampered, ailing Mustang is receiving a recycled transplant of vital parts, just as mine did so often during the previous 18 years.

To my beautiful, dutiful classic car of yesteryear I bid a fond farewell. Adieu, old friend, and R.I.P. (rest in pieces). ■



Illustrations by Florence Holub

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**Up Close and Tuneful.** Dennis Cabral entertains several of the young snackers at the Noe Valley Farmer's Market with a rendition of *The Teensy Weensy Spider*.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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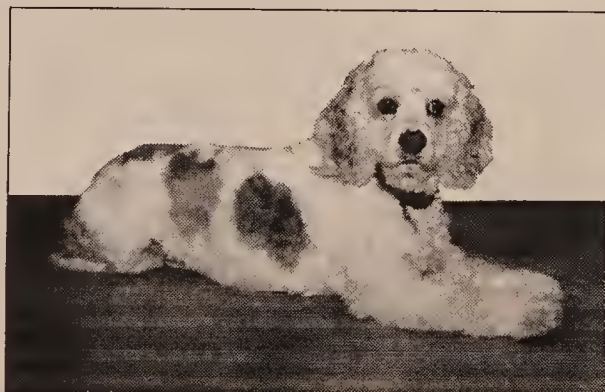
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## New Principal at St. Philip's Taking Many Small Steps

By Laura McHale Holland

Last May, when Italian-born Patrizia Guiotto accepted the post of principal at St. Philip School, a 68-year-old elementary school on Elizabeth Street, she welcomed the opportunity despite the challenges of a shrinking enrollment. The number of students at the parochial school had gradually declined from 250 in 2000 to about 200 last year.

Utilizing her past experience as an administrator of a small private school in Switzerland, Guiotto began implementing what she calls a child-centered approach to education. She is confident it will translate into success for St. Philip's students—and for the school as a whole.

"I'm progressive in the sense that I look forward rather than at what has been done before," says Guiotto. "I believe in progressing in small steps, and I look at the whole child. I don't just look at the educational goals. I also look at the best environment and the best way for each child to achieve them."

Word must have gotten out already. Enrollment is up by several students this year, Guiotto reports, and there's a good chance it could go higher.

Recognizing that all students learn differently, Guiotto has recruited a full-time reading specialist and an after-school educational therapist for St. Philip's. She has forged alliances with organizations such as 826 Valencia, the de Young Museum, and the San Francisco Symphony, in order to offer free after-school tutoring, writing workshops, and arts and music programs. She also plans to expand existing after-school programs.

"We have tutoring and guitar lessons in place. And I'm in the process of gathering resources, contacting companies and individuals," Guiotto says. "I sent out a questionnaire at the end of last school year asking for input on what programs parents would like to see at the school. I really want to give the community a voice in what activities we provide. So we'll see what they have in mind when school starts."

Guiotto observed that the teachers at



Patrizia Guiotto, who took over the post of principal at St. Philip School this fall, has already formed partnerships with 826 Valencia, the de Young Museum, and the San Francisco Symphony. Photo by Paula Whitehead

St. Philip's are among the best she has ever worked with, both in public and private schools. (Her background also includes founding a consulting firm in Boise, Idaho, which specializes in designing and implementing training to improve students' performance.) She hopes Noe Valley parents will consider St. Philip's a viable alternative to either private or public school.

"I think the steady little decline in our enrollment had a lot to do with people moving out to the suburbs," she says. "Also, since the dot-com bubble burst, the economy hasn't been as good as it was. People have been afraid they can't afford a parochial school. A lot of them don't know that a private school is more than double what we charge, but the quality of education is way up there [at St. Philip's]. Almost all of our students who apply to Lowell, for example, get accepted."

For more information about St. Philip School, please contact Patrizia Guiotto at [pguiotto@saintphilipschool.com](mailto:pguiotto@saintphilipschool.com) or 415-824-8467.



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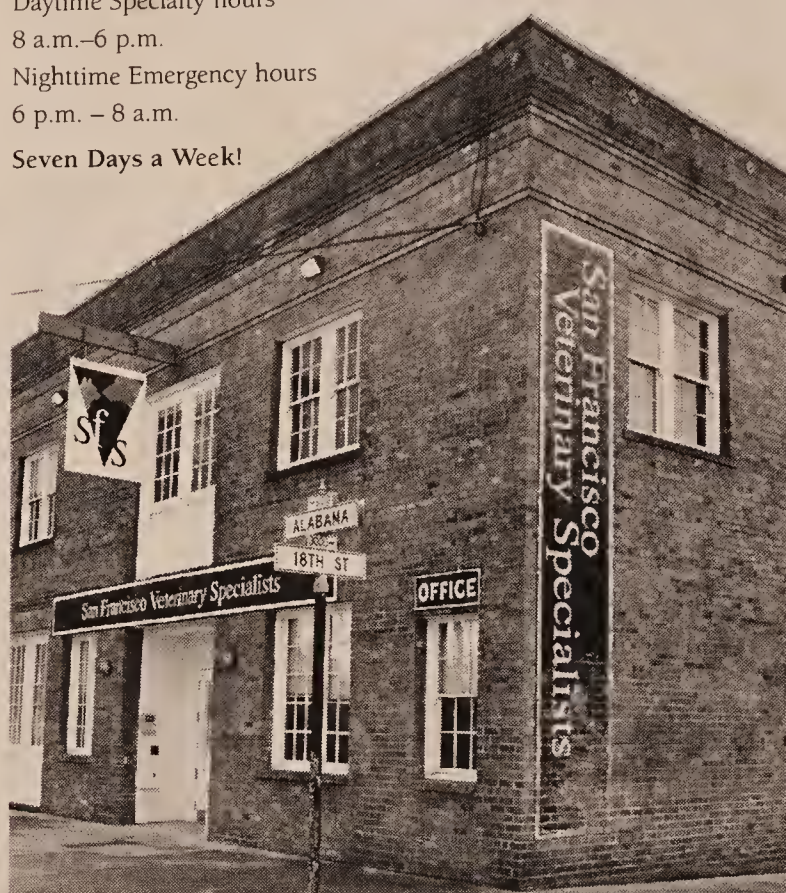
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# SCHOOL REPORT

The latest news from Noe Valley's public schools is that Alvarado Elementary has a new principal this fall: Gene Barresi. The *Voice* hopes to visit with Mr. Barresi and report on his first few weeks at the helm in the next issue. Meanwhile, here's what's up at two other local public schools, Fairmount Elementary School and James Lick Middle School. The following school notes are supplied by volunteers and parents at the individual schools.

## FAIRMOUNT

### Fairmount Continues Academic Gains

As the new school year began, Fairmount Principal Karling Aguilera-Fort received good news to share with his staff and the school community. The school's 2005-06 test scores had risen again in both language arts and math. The math gains were especially impressive, with the second and fourth grades making exceptional gains. These increases were even more significant given the school's purpose as a school of languages (with a highly successful Spanish dual-immersion program).

Last year's focus on using data and performance benchmarks to track each student's progress and support his or her individual learning needs has seen results, as both teachers and students strive to meet the state academic standards. Bravo to the staff and students for a job well done.

### Party at Pritikin Mansion Features Music by Jorge Santana

In a reprise of last year's spectacular fall concert, musician Jorge Santana and philanthropist/neighbor Bob Pritikin have teamed up to support Fairmount with a Sunday afternoon benefit party at Chenery House. The private estate, which can be entered through the school's parking lot on Randall, is a mansion surrounded by acres of landscaped grounds and filled with Pritikin's astounding collection of paintings and sculpture.

The event, open to Fairmount's Noe Valley neighbors, takes place on Sunday, Sept. 17, from noon to dusk. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$30. Free valet parking will be provided, and the price of admission includes self-guided tours of the mansion (with its upper-floor swimming pool), as well as an open bar and barbecue, hosted by Pritikin. Last year's event raised \$20,000, which was

used to support art, dance, and music programs for Fairmount's students.

### Fairmount Parent to Run for School Board

Hydra Mendoza, longtime Fairmount parent activist and Mayor Gavin Newsom's education adviser, has tossed her hat in the ring for this November's school board race. Mendoza, whose previous position as executive director of Parents for Public Schools involved working to increase public school enrollment, will be aiming for one of the two vacant seats, as incumbents Sarah Lipson and Eddie Chin have decided not to run for reelection. Mendoza and her husband Ricardo Alvarez, a physician at St. Luke's Hospital, have a third-grader at Fairmount, as well as an incoming sixth-grader at James Lick Middle School.

### Time for a Visit

Interested in touring Fairmount to experience its dynamic programs and meet with the principal? School tours, guided by parent volunteers, occur every Tuesday morning throughout the fall. You can reserve a spot by calling 695-5669 or drop in to see teaching and learning in action.

—Tom Ruiz

## JAMES LICK

### 75th Anniversary Alumni Search

Were you ever a Bulldog, a Skipper, or a Pirate? James Lick is looking for former students to help celebrate the school's 75th birthday in the spring of 2007. (Our current eighth-graders will be the 75th graduating class.)

If you, a relative, or someone you know attended James Lick between 1931 and the present, we'd love to hear from you. We welcome pictures and personal recollections of the school, your teachers, and your classmates. Sadly, much of the school's collection of photos, yearbooks, and other memorabilia disappeared during asbestos abatement work in the early 1990s. Therefore, any items you can copy, lend, or donate to help us recreate our school's history would be greatly appreciated. Watch for more information about this important anniversary.

### Enrollment, Test Scores Rising

James Lick is becoming a very successful middle school, with rising enrollment and a waiting list for new students. A recent article about test scores in *The Examiner* identified James Lick as one of the most improved schools in the San Francisco Unified School District. The entire school community has been working hard to ensure that academic gains are made without sacrificing arts, science, and language programs, which encourage the development of well-rounded, cre-

ative thinkers. Interested parents of elementary school students are invited to tour the school on Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. from October through December.

### A Very Busy Summer

Despite an abbreviated City College session this summer, the Bulldog Cafe (formerly Café Lick) made nearly \$3,000, thanks to a dedicated group of families who showed up to sell coffee and snacks on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for the six-week summer session. Income from the Bulldog Cafe, which operates whenever City College classes are on campus, provides support for many of James Lick's enrichment, arts, and travel programs.

After-school program director Lina Hancock spent her summer developing Beyond the Bell, a new and expanded program that will be offered Monday through Friday from 3:45 to 5:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 11. Students will have daily time for tutoring and homework support, followed by a choice of activities ranging from drama and physical fitness to quiet reading or chess. James Lick students may sign up to attend eight-week sessions from two to five days per week.

### More Students, More Fun...

The incoming sixth-grade class at James Lick will spend an entire day in Glen Park for community-building activities and a picnic. The students will have a chance to meet all their teachers and classmates, and have a great day outdoors in the sun. The sixth-grade class is big this year, with about 200 students, compared with 170 last year. Sixth-graders will share a separate lunch period on regular school days.

### Electives Get a Boost

Two years ago, James Lick had only one elective art class. This year, the school will have drama, jazz band, a choral group, Ballet Folklorico, and the return of the successful Blue Bear School of Music guitar program.

### Welcome from the Principal...

In a series of orientation meetings the week before school opened, Principal Carmelo Sgarlato welcomed new and returning families to the school and shared information about exciting changes in curriculum, staff, and academic performance. He also acknowledged the positive environment that is evolving at the school, and he pledged to do all he could to sustain it.

### ...and the PTSA

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) is busier than ever this year. President Heidi Anderson reports that because so many incoming parents are eager to get involved the PTSA is creating

a new volunteer program. The group also will be selling James Lick sweatshirts and planners at upcoming events.

PTSA families held a cleanup day on Saturday, Aug. 26, to prepare the schoolyard for the arrival of students. Then, on the first day of school (Aug. 28), they gathered in the Parent Room (Room 108) for a welcome breakfast featuring lots of good food and conversation.

The PTSA's Annual First Meeting Potluck will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 6 to 8 p.m., in the school cafeteria. This will be a great opportunity to meet other parents and get a closer look at the plans for the year. Parents who are online can get all the information they need by joining the PTSA's Yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JamesLick/>.

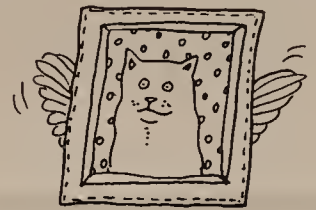
### No Change in Dress Code

James Lick's dress code will remain the same this year. The mandatory school uniform is plain black pants, a plain white collared shirt, and no red or blue colors.

### For Those Behind the Wheel

Please remember to drive safely, especially when school is in session: 8:20 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. Also, check out "What I Like About School," the beautiful new ceramic plaque we installed last year near the bus shelter on Castro near 25th Street. It's a slender, vertical slab of glazed clay mounted on one of the white art-deco posts along the school's outer fence. Students and families worked together to create this public art piece as a gift to James Lick and the Noe Valley neighborhood.

—Sue Cattoche



## SCHOOL CONTACTS

**James Lick Middle School**  
Carmelo Sgarlato, Principal  
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street  
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[www.geocities.com/jameslickptsa](http://www.geocities.com/jameslickptsa)

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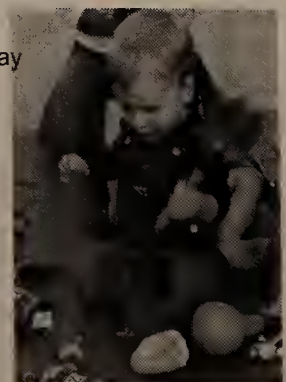
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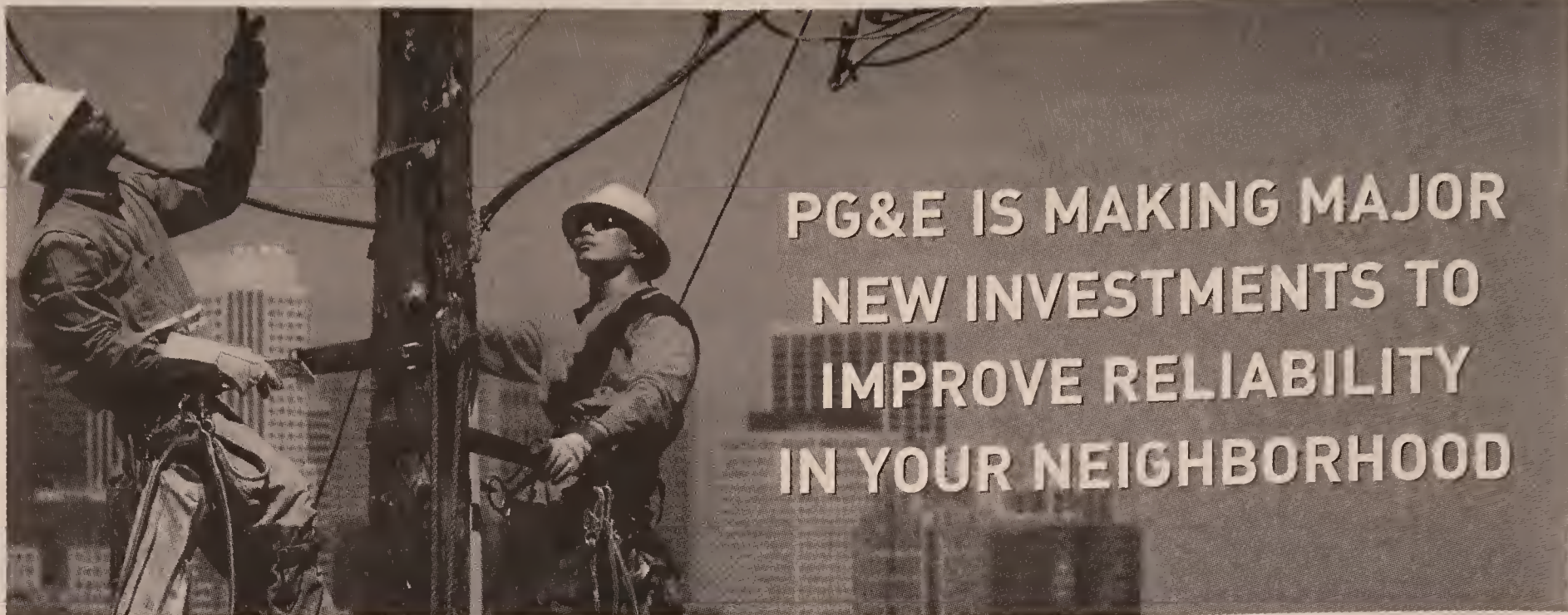
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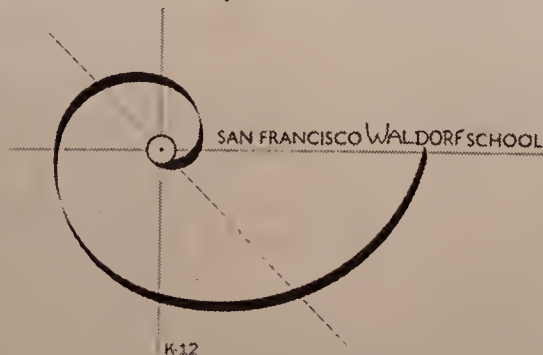
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• Joy Morris, D.D.S. • Naomi Carolino, D.D.S.



## MORE BOOKS TO READ

This month's "More Books to Read" list features fiction and poetry for children, selected by librarian Pam Ow of the Eureka Valley Branch Library. If you'd like to reserve a book, call your local branch or visit the Library's web site, [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org). You can also explore the Noe Valley bookmobile, which is parked in front of St. Philip's School at Elizabeth and Diamond streets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Note: The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey Street, is undergoing a facelift and will be closed until late 2007 at the earliest. For information about the renovation, call 557-4353.

### LIBRARY SELECTIONS

#### Children's Fiction

■ *On the Way to Kindergarten* celebrates Bear's accomplishments from birth to age 5, with a cozy rhyming text by Virginia Kroll, illustrated by Elisabeth Schlossberg. *Ages 3-5.*

■ In *Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman With a Great Big Heart*, Flor takes care of all the creatures and people of her community. Raul Colón won the 2006 Pura Belpré Illustrator Medal, and author Pat Mora received a Belpré Author Honor award. *Ages 4-8.*

■ The best woodcarver has passed on his artistic skills to young Julio, but who will win the annual contest? Arthur Dorros' story and Ann Grifalconi's mixed-media collages offer a look at intergenerational friendship in a Mexican village, in *Julio's Magic*. *Ages 4-9.*

■ Allen Say remembers the time when the *Kamishibai Man* entertained children with his "paper theater," telling stories and selling candies on the streets of Japan. *Ages 6-9.*

■ Two orphaned children and a barn full of cast-off animals are enthralled by the adventurous life story of legendary Dick Whittington and his lucky cat, as told by the cat's descendant, *Whittington*, in the warm-hearted Newbery Honor Book by Alan Armstrong, illustrated by S.D. Schindler. *Ages 9-12.*

#### Children's Poetry

■ Zuri relies on her lively, one-of-a-kind best friend to ease the way through the new school year, in Danitra Brown, *Class Clown*, with poems by Nikki Grimes and watercolors by E. B. Lewis. *Ages 8-10.*

Annotations by  
Pam Ow, Children's Librarian,  
Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk  
Memorial Branch Library

### LIBRARY EVENTS

#### Lapsits and Story Time

■ Come enjoy stories, songs, and fingerplays with your baby or toddler, at the Tuesday morning *lapsits* sponsored by the Noe Valley Library. This month's lapsits will be held at 10:15 a.m. on Sept. 5, 12, and 19, at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez Street (corner of Clipper).

■ Bethany will also host the Noe Valley Library's *preschool story time*, on the same dates (Sept. 5, 12, and 19) but starting at 11 a.m. This is a reading-aloud program for children ages 3 to 5.

■ The Noe Valley *bookmobile* will be open for service on Monday and Wednesday mornings, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The spacious van parks on Elizabeth Street, between Diamond and Castro.

■ Meanwhile, the Eureka Valley, Glen Park, Mission, Bernal Heights, and other branch libraries have scheduled a variety of other programs, lectures, and special events, for both children and adults. Go to [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org) for complete listings.

■ You might be interested to know that the San Francisco Library has printed *brochures* of recommended titles for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. It also has updated the brochure "Our Latino Heritage."

#### Branch Hours

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12-6 10-9 12-9 10-6 1-6 10-6

Glen Park Branch Library  
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10-6 12-8 1-7 1-6 1-6

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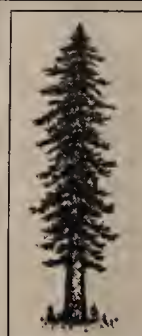
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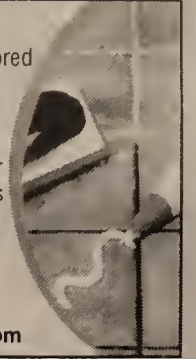
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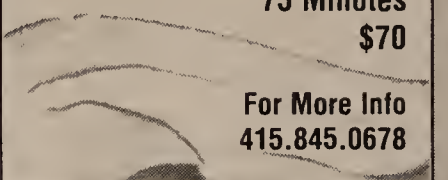
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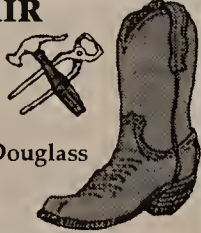
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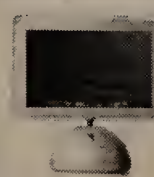
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The next *Voice* will be the October 2006 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before Oct. 1. **The deadline for Class Ads is Sept. 15, 2006.**

Note: The Class Ads are printed in the newspaper and then displayed for one month on our web site: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

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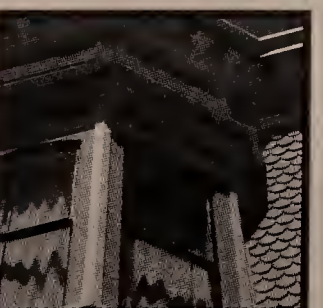
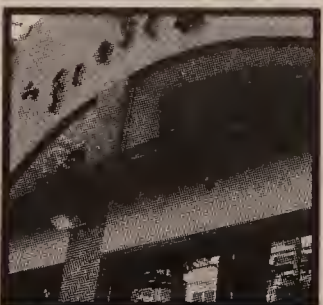
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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### The Forest and the Trees

By Mazook

THE NOE VALLEY ASSOCIATION (NVA), which is what the 24th Street Community Benefit District (CBD) is calling itself these days, has announced that on Sept. 12, some 50 trees will be planted in "Downtown Noe Valley" by the San Francisco Bureau of Urban Forestry and Friends of the Urban Forest, with the aid of volunteers from Levi Strauss & Co.

"We are very excited that our work in putting together this tree-planting project is becoming a reality," says Debra Niemann, the NVA's executive director. "There will be a second planting of around 30 more trees near the end of this year."

A big chunk of the funding for the trees came from a \$10,000 grant awarded to the NVA as part of the city's Community Challenge Grants Program (also known as the Neighborhood Beautification Fund). The NVA's was one of 23 city projects that received "community-greening" grants totalling \$500,000. Niemann was pretty happy about the award, since she wrote the proposal.

"We also received an additional \$3,200 grant from San Francisco Beautiful," says Niemann, "and a lot of volunteer support from neighborhood people like Carol Yenne, Rob Evans, Ned Smith, and Isabelle Salvadori."

The NVA's tree group had the task of

picking the types of trees and the sites along 24th Street. They considered the effects the trees would have on PG&E wires, sewers, and doorways, and then obtained the property owners' consent. "We had to wind our way through five city agencies," Niemann says.

The trees were chosen for size, color, and durability. The NVA looked for tall, strong trees with small canopies, Niemann says. Some of the winning candidates were the Double-Cherry, Callery Pear, Tristania, and Little Gem Magnolia. Don't worry, they're not fruit-bearing.

Later this year, the NVA will be planting some London plane trees, which have a large canopy, on Noe and Sanchez streets near 24th.

"It has been quite a process, taking hours and hours in each phase, as we went step by step since January," says Niemann, "and we are *still* looking for sites. I never knew how hard it was to plant a tree! It has been a great experience, however, and we were able to meet some true gems in our city government who wanted to help us make this happen. A special thanks to Carla Short, who is a manager at the Bureau of Urban Forestry. She's been just wonderful."

In other green news, last June's Garden Tour, organized by Friends of Noe Valley, raised over \$3,200, according to Friends President Richard May. The money will be given to the NVA also, and earmarked for four ornamental metal flower boxes, to be placed on 24th Street. If you missed this year's tour, which featured half a dozen gorgeous backyard gardens, Richard May says the event will sprout again next year, possibly with a plant sale.



**A BEAUTIFUL PARKING JOB:** Even more benefits from the CBD are appearing at the city's public parking lot on 24th Street between Le Zinc and Radio Shack.

On behalf of NVA, Just for Fun's David Eiland has been working with the Department of Parking to do a makeover of the space. "Several months ago, representatives of the city came out to Noe Valley looking for way to beautify our neighborhood business district, and among other things, they took an interest in our public parking lot," says Eiland.

As you might know, the lot has hosted homeless people in the past, who have slept behind the front wall. What's worse, drug needles have appeared, and this brings up some serious safety issues.

Eiland *et al.* were asked to come up with a design for the lot's renovation, and work was started last month. The plans are to repave the lot and entrance, tear down the brick wall, create a micro-mini-park featuring seating off the sidewalk, place two new bulletin boards on the Radio Shack wall (a smaller one for NVA news and a larger one for neighborhood postings), and install benches for the public and even a game table. There will also be room for cars to park.

Eiland says a community meeting will be held sometime in the next few months, to discuss long-term planning.

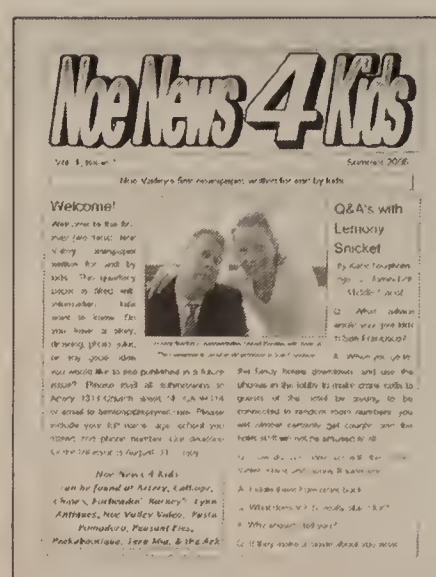
In one last NVA item, Niemann says she is "delighted with the splendid job" that MJM Management, which was hired to keep 24th Street clean, is doing. (I especially like the sidewalk-steaming.)

She says if you sight a spill (trash, dog poop, anything) on 24th Street, call the NVA/CBD dispatch number, 559-8492.



**MARKET MY WORDS:** Following up on tips from City Hall, the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) has learned that an escrow account has been opened for the transfer of Bell Market to Harley DeLano, the "hometown" grocer who owned Bell in the 1990s.

When the NVBI called for confirma-



**Collectors, Take Note:** One of the hot items in Noe Valley this summer was the first edition of *Noe News 4 Kids*, "Noe Valley's first newspaper written for and by kids." Thirteen young artists and writers contributed stories, drawings, and games to the flagship effort, which was produced by Artery art studio on Church Street. Kids who want to get involved should e-mail Paula Benton quick: [bentonp@sprynet.com](mailto:bentonp@sprynet.com). The fall issue is about to go to press.

tion, DeLano confirmed that Bell might soon be his. "Yes, that's true—it's a pretty tight escrow. We now have 60 days to complete the transaction, and 30 days to get the landlord's approval. We are about to set up a meeting with the landlord. Then we have to make an application to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for the transfer from Kroger. Hopefully, we will close the sale by the first week of December."

DeLano's group is buying 11 Cala/Bell markets in the Ralph's chain: six in San Francisco (Noe Valley, Eureka Valley,

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# RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

California/Hyde, Geary/27th Avenue, South Van Ness, and Silver Avenue) and five in Marin (Fairfax, Novato, Mill Valley, and two in Tiburon).

"We are excited to be coming back to Noe Valley, and we are anxious to set up a community meeting to hear what things our customers want to see on the shelves," says DeLano. "We will be contacting Supervisor Dufty to set up the meeting."

When the NVBI called Bevan Dufty, he said he'd already talked to DeLano and agreed to look for a date and a suitable meeting place. (Should we get the James Lick Auditorium?)

☎ ☎ ☎

**DRY AS A TURNIP:** In a related food item, the NVBI unfortunately has no news to report on the ghostly Real Food Company, which Nutraceutical Corporation closed three long years ago at the beginning of the Labor Day weekend. Even a supervisor can't get the scoop. "I have tried to follow up several times with them about the architectural plans they said they were working on, but I've had no response," Dufty says.

Maybe we can have a "neighborhood meeting" with the Nutra-folks and find out what they can do for the neighborhood. (Should we get the Civic Auditorium?)

Speaking of large corporations existing in quaint little neighborhoods and looking for ways they can help, there's good news about Walgreen's. Our local drug-store, on Castro near 24th, will cheerfully recycle all your batteries, as well as the old ink cartridges from your computer printers. Talk to store manager Yong Li

about how your ink-cartridge recycling efforts will be rewarded with a gift of several free prints. But don't tell him you heard about it from me.

By the way, when Walgreen's took over the Little Bell space many years ago, they made a deal with neighborhood groups that there would be one hour free parking for all Downtown Noe Valley shoppers, whether or not they shopped at Walgreen's. That deal still stands.

☎ ☎ ☎

**IN THE "WE LOVE NOE VALLEY"** department, Hill & Co. Real Estate is climbing to the top fast. The firm is expanding its operation—they already have two offices in Cow Hollow—and opening up a new branch on the corner of 24th and Sanchez, in the building once occupied by Designers' Club.

According to spokesperson Eileen Mougeot, Hill is hoping to open the new Noe Valley office by Nov. 1. "We plan on having 20 agents at that location and 90 agents in our Cow Hollow offices."

Why Noe Valley? "Well, this is a family-run business, started in Cow Hollow in 1956. It grew as a family-owned neighborhood business, and we have seen our clientele in Noe Valley grow steadily over the years. We all just love the neighborhood, so the [Costello] family that owns the company decided it was time to do it," says Mougeot, who has been with Hill & Co. for 25 years.

Mougeot says Hill & Co., which owns the building, is joining the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association and will be sponsoring the "Pumpkin Patch" booth at the Oct. 21 Harvest Fest. The business is also looking forward to participating in the NVA's efforts to beautify the business district.

Both of the upstairs residential units have been remodeled and turned into condos, and they're being offered for sale this

month (by Hill, of course). Each flat has three bedrooms and two baths, a deck, and parking, and "should be in the million-dollar range," says Mougeot.

Also new to Noe Valley is a women's clothing store which moved into the spot vacated by Guys and Dolls, on 24th Street just east of Church. It is called Nisa, which means "woman" in Arabic, and it features a locally-designed women's clothing line. The styles were originally created by owners Shinobu Sering and Umay Mohammed, who first opened Nisa SF on Guerrero and 19th streets in 1996. The two designers have been quite successful since then, with their comfortable, colorful knits. Ivy Chan and Marie Biscarra have joined them in the venture.

☎ ☎ ☎

**PULLING FOR LOST IN THE FOG:** Saturday, July 16, was a strange day in Noe Valley. That was the day award-winning thoroughbred Lost in the Fog, last year's national sprinting champion, ran a race at Calder Racetrack near Miami, Fla. The Fog is, as most of you know, the pride and joy of Downtown Noe Valley businessman Harry Aleo. The same day, Aleo entered another horse he owns, Victorina, a 3-year-old philly, in Calder's Azalea Breeders' Cup.

Well, Victorina won her race, but the 4-year-old Fog finished ninth in his, even though he was an 11-to-10 favorite. "Lost in the Fog ran the worst race of his career," the *Chronicle's* Larry Stumes reported the following day. It was clear to all his fans and to his trainer and owner that something just wasn't right.

As it turns out, Lost in the Fog ran his last and probably one of the more valiant horse races in history on July 16. At the time of the race, as Aleo found out a few weeks later, Lost in the Fog had been suffering "anywhere from the last four months up to a year with malignant tu-

mors on his spleen and under his spine, both of which are inoperable," grimaced Aleo. "Oh boy, I don't know how he did it!"

According to Aleo, "We learned quite by accident. On Sunday, Aug. 13, Greg [Gilchrist, the trainer] noted that Lost in the Fog had a slight fever and was not eating, which are symptoms of colic and which can be fatal when the intestines get clogged up. So we took him to the vet for an examination. They found no colic, but they did find a tumor on his spleen about the size of a football. Tumors are very rare in horses—they occur in less than one percent of all horses, so this was quite a surprise.

"Obviously, the prognosis is not so good," Aleo said in the last week of August, "but we are trying some new drugs that we hope might cause the tumors to shrink. He has been doing much better these past few days, eating better, and being more frisky nipping at all of us, so we are hoping for a miracle. You know I feel sad for [the Fog] because he never got to run his best race, while he was in his prime," says Aleo.

When asked about the millions of dollars he could have gotten if he had sold Lost in the Fog, Aleo responded that he had absolutely no regrets. "This is all about the horse, not the money. Thoroughbreds get everything from bone chips to bad ankles and knees, so just one misstep, and that's it. You're always just one step from nothing. And besides, what would I do with all the money—buy more expensive racehorses? I already have one of the best, who has given me such joy. It was a great run!"

Aleo will be out at Golden Gate Fields on Sept. 16, when Victorina will be running in the Noe Valley Stakes. "She has won six out of her last nine races," smiles a very melancholy Harry Aleo.

That's 30, you all. ■

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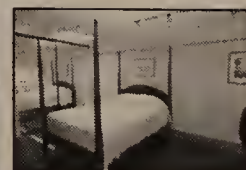
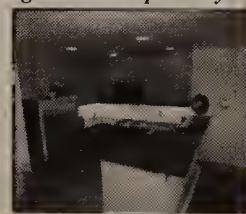


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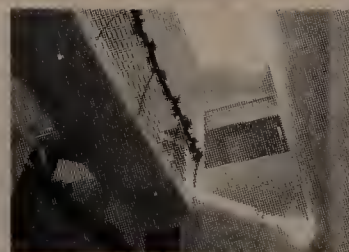
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### Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230  
E-mail: [capa@home4us.org](mailto:capa@home4us.org)  
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

### Church Street Business (CSB)

Contact: Lynn Ingham, 643-5966, or Paula Benton, 248-0235  
E-mail: [bentonp@sprynet.com](mailto:bentonp@sprynet.com)  
Meetings: Third Monday, every other month. Location varies. Sept. 18 meeting at Fattoush, 1361 Church St., 6:30 p.m.

### Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

### Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228  
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually. Call for details.

### Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

### East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Irregular, call to confirm.

### Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Thursday of the month (except December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

## MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

### Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362  
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Call for information. The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day before Mother's Day.

### Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862  
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

### Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman  
E-mail: [lauranor@yahoo.com](mailto:lauranor@yahoo.com)  
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

### Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May  
E-mail: [rambooks@pacbell.net](mailto:rambooks@pacbell.net)  
Web site: [www.friendsofnoevalley.com](http://www.friendsofnoevalley.com)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the month (call or e-mail to confirm), at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

### Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845  
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

### Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Contact: Christina Goebel, 826-7772  
E-mail: [christina\\_goebel@yahoo.com](mailto:christina_goebel@yahoo.com)  
Meetings: Call or e-mail for dates and times.

### Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114,

San Francisco, CA 94119

Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

### Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: [noestrolls@aol.com](mailto:noestrolls@aol.com)  
Weekly Strolls: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., departing Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St., between Sanchez and Vicksburg. Stroll tours Noe Valley, the Castro, and the Mission. Membership free. To join, and for more details, visit [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

### Noe Valley Association

(also known as the Noe Valley Community Benefit District)  
Contact: Debra Niemann, [nemo@rcn.com](mailto:nemo@rcn.com)  
Dispatch: Call 559-8492 to report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street

### Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838  
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month; Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

### Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between Sanchez and Vicksburg Street  
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332  
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021 Sanchez St., 6 p.m.

### Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, [kddrew@yahoo.com](mailto:kddrew@yahoo.com); Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103  
Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102  
Meetings: Call for information.

### Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contact: Carol Yenne, 648-3954  
Mailing Address: c/o Small Frys, 4066 24th

St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month. Call for location and time.

### Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents  
Contact: Mina Kenvin  
E-mail: [minaken@gmail.com](mailto:minaken@gmail.com)

### Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Mindy Kershner, 377-3890  
E-mail: [mindytower@aol.com](mailto:mindytower@aol.com)  
Meetings: Call for details.

### Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

### San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contacts: Don Oshiro, 285-8188  
E-mail: [contact@sanjoseguerrero.com](mailto:contact@sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Web site: [www.sanjoseguerrero.com](http://www.sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Meetings: See web site.

### See Jane Run Running/Walking Club

Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338  
Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk route. Info? [www.SeeJaneRunSports.com](http://www.SeeJaneRunSports.com).)

### Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission  
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary  
E-mail: [lori@tail-wagging.com](mailto:lori@tail-wagging.com)  
Web site: [www.tail-wagging.com](http://www.tail-wagging.com)  
Meetings: E-mail for information.

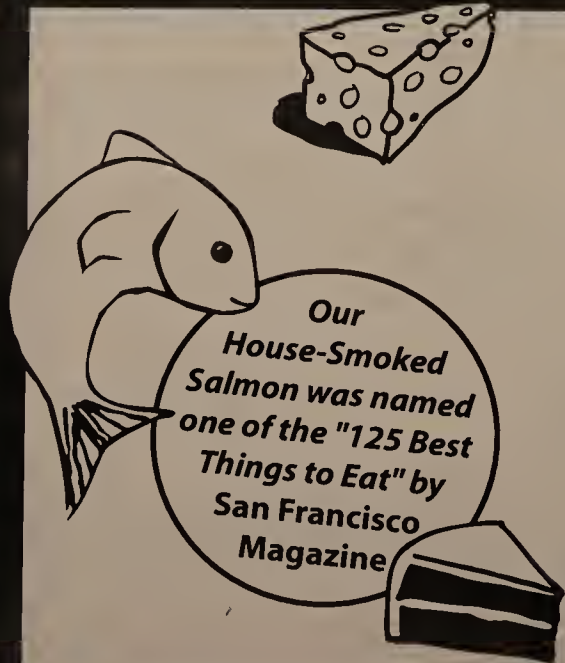
### Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473  
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets, 7:30 p.m.

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**trust:** (trŭst) n. **1.** firm belief or confidence in the honesty, integrity, ability, strength or character of a person or thing; reliance **2.** one in which confidence is placed **3.** confident expectation, anticipation or hope **4.a.** the fact of having confidence placed in one **b.** one in which confidence is placed **5.** reliance on something in the future; hope – **SYN.** RELIANCE, CONFIDENCE, CARE

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## Not Quite Lovers and Not Quite Friends

◆ BY SUSAN GODSTONE ◆

“Don’t wear your hat,” he says.  
 “You’re having a good hair day.”  
 “Okay,” I say.

He sees the same movies on the coffee table from the last time he visited.

“Haven’t you watched these yet?”

“No,” I say. “I’ve been busy.”

“Busy doing what?” he asks.

“This and that.”

Like always, he is ready to leave the apartment before I am. I look at myself in the mirror, smear pink lipstick across my dry mouth, and smile at myself.

“Come on,” he whines. “I’m hungry.”

We take a familiar route up Chestnut Street towards Van Ness. As we climb up Chestnut to Polk, I lag behind. I see the shape of his back, his jeans, and his black leather jacket scratched and slightly torn on the left sleeve. He slows down and waits for me to catch up. A couple, hand in hand, laughing with each other, walk past us heading towards Van Ness. The man has his arm casually flung around the woman’s shoulders.

It’s a Friday night. As we walk along Polk Street, there are all sorts of people on the sidewalk, but we don’t notice them. We are in our own little bubble. The air is cold enough that we can see smoke on our breath. I wish that I’d worn my hat.

“We have to go Dutch on this meal,” he says buttoning up his jacket.

“That’s okay. My treat,” I say.

“Are you sure?”

“I’m sure,” I say. “I wouldn’t offer otherwise.”

We walk in silence for a while. I notice an abandoned wheelchair on the sidewalk.

“That’s for you,” I tease.

“No, for you,” he says. “You, spinster of this parish.”

“I worry that we’ll both be alone forever,” he says. “One is the loneliest number...,” he sings. I try to put my hand over his mouth.

“We won’t end up like this forever,” I say, “because I’ll meet somebody else and you’ll meet somebody else and we won’t be lonely sad people anymore. How about Thai food?” I point to the restaurant across the street called Thai Spice.

“Okay. Haven’t we been there before?”

“Years ago,” I say. “I think it’s under different ownership now.”

“What makes you think that?” he asks facetiously. A large red and yellow sign hangs untidily above the entrance. “UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.”

We walk into the restaurant and get directed to the window table. We will be their advertisement for an hour or so. He wants to keep his coat on. I give mine to the waiter, who flashes me a wide grin. We sit down and I notice a couple two tables away. They are finishing their meal. The boy feeds the girl a spoonful of sticky mango rice.

He looks at the menu. “Green chicken curry?” I ask.

“I’m looking for something different,” he says.

“You *should* try something different.”

He looks for quite a while. I know what I’m having. The couple two tables away are paying the check. The girl is looking at her watch. She’s worried that they will miss the movie.

“No, I’ll go for green chicken curry,” he says.

“It’s always my litmus test.”

“Sounds good,” I say, imagining that I have never heard him say this before.

“I think about fatherhood,” he says out of the blue.

“Well, you didn’t when we were together.” I lean over the table and wave my fork at him.

“That’s because it wasn’t on my mind then.”

“Maybe you didn’t want to think about it with me,” I say. With the emphasis on the me.

“Maybe, maybe not,” he says. “We were arguing too much for me to think about it.” He grabs my hand. “I’ve been too lonely.” He looks into my eyes as if going home with me would be the answer to all his problems.

“Me too,” I say. “I don’t like being alone. I think about getting married. I want to be married.”

“Why?” he asks.

“Because I don’t want to go through this hell again. It’s horrible. I want to be with somebody forever.”

“Is this a new thought?”

“Yes.”

He looks upset. I am upset.

“Nobody is with anyone forever. At least,” he says, “marriage is no guarantee.”

“Well, it upsets me to know that you are thinking of fatherhood,” I say.

“I know,” he says. “I think I can make some money on this decorating job. I brought the estimate for you to check. You know I’m no good at figures.” He pulls a crumpled piece of paper out of his jeans pocket.

“I don’t have my glasses. I’ll look at it later.”

“Okay.” He puts the papers back in his pocket. I know that I will not see it again.

“How have you been, really?” I ask.

“Not too bad. Like I said, really lonely. I miss you.”

He pulls up his sleeve and shows me an angry rash on his elbow. “My eczema is getting worse.”

“Yes...it is,” I say. “Have you been to the doctor?”

“Nah, I just put that cream on it.”

Silence, for what seems like a long time.

“I just want both of us to be happy,” he says.

“So do I,” I say.

“I’m thinking about selling my truck,” he says.

“I never use it anymore. It’s a waste of space sitting in Mom’s garage.”

“Sounds like a good idea.”

“I’ve been making inquiries,” he says.

The waiter brings our food. Green chicken curry for him; eggplant and prawns for me. White rice and vegetable spring rolls. Beer for him. Green tea for me.

“Is everything okay?” says the waiter looking at me.

“Everything is fine,” I say.

“So, have you been seeing anyone?” He looks at his plate of green chicken curry as he asks me this question.

“I haven’t been interested in other people,” I snap.

“No need to be snarky,” he says.

“I’m not being snarky. I just haven’t.”

He changes the subject. “This green chicken curry is really good.”

“Then it passes your test?”

“Definitely. I think it’s the best Thai place we’ve

been to in a long time,” he says.

“Haven’t you been to any since we’ve split up?” I ask.

“Not really. A bad one in Berkeley.”

“Oh,” I say. “I’m thinking about trying Internet dating.” I blurt it out as if it’s a dirty secret.

“That’s not the way to meet people,” he says.

“What’s not?”

“The Internet,” he says. “How can you tell what a person is like from an e-mail?”

“I think you can tell a lot,” I say. “If you really pay attention to what people are writing, that is.”

“You’re a beautiful woman,” he says.

“No, I’m not,” I say. “I’m an old woman.”

“Okay,” he says.

There is quite a bit of food uneaten, but we are finished. I look out the window and it’s starting to rain. The waiter intrudes into our conversation.

“Do you want to take what’s left home?”

“Yes,” we say.

“In separate bags?” the waiter asks.

“Yes,” he says. “We lived together for ten years but not anymore.” He looks sad and I can tell the waiter takes pity on him, not me. The waiter sighs in his direction and collects the dishes. When the check comes, I pay.

“I want to call you whenever I want, unless you don’t want me to,” I say.

“What does that mean?” he asks.

“I don’t know,” I say. “I suppose I want to talk to you whenever I want, even though we can’t.”

“I’m not begging anymore.”

“I don’t want you to beg.”

“Yes, you do. It’s a power thing. You like it,” he says.

“You mean if I didn’t like it, I wouldn’t see you.”

“Yes,” he says.

“I don’t think that’s true.”

“Well, just another thing we’ll have to disagree upon.” The waiter brings my coat and he helps me on with it.

We walk together to the bus stop. This time we go down the road, his arm around my shoulders, mine around his back. Each carrying our bag of Thai food. It is raining hard but neither of us has an umbrella. I reflect on what he says. It doesn’t make me feel good, but I don’t know what to do about it.

“When you think about fatherhood, do you have a mother in mind?” I ask finally.

“No, I just keep looking at babies. I’m broody. I didn’t know men could get broody.”

“You’re a shit,” I say.

“I am who I am,” he says.

We arrive at the bus stop. A homeless man asks him for a quarter. He rummages in his pocket and pulls out a dime. The homeless person sneers at both of us and shuffles off.

“I’ll see you soon,” I say.

“I don’t know,” he says. “Maybe, maybe not.”

“Here’s my bus,” I say. He kisses me quickly on the lips and I get on the bus without looking back.

◆ ◆ ◆

*London native Susan Godstone has been living in San Francisco for eight years. She has been a member of a fiction-writing group called Kill Your Darlings for six years. She can be contacted at sgodstone@attglobal.net.*